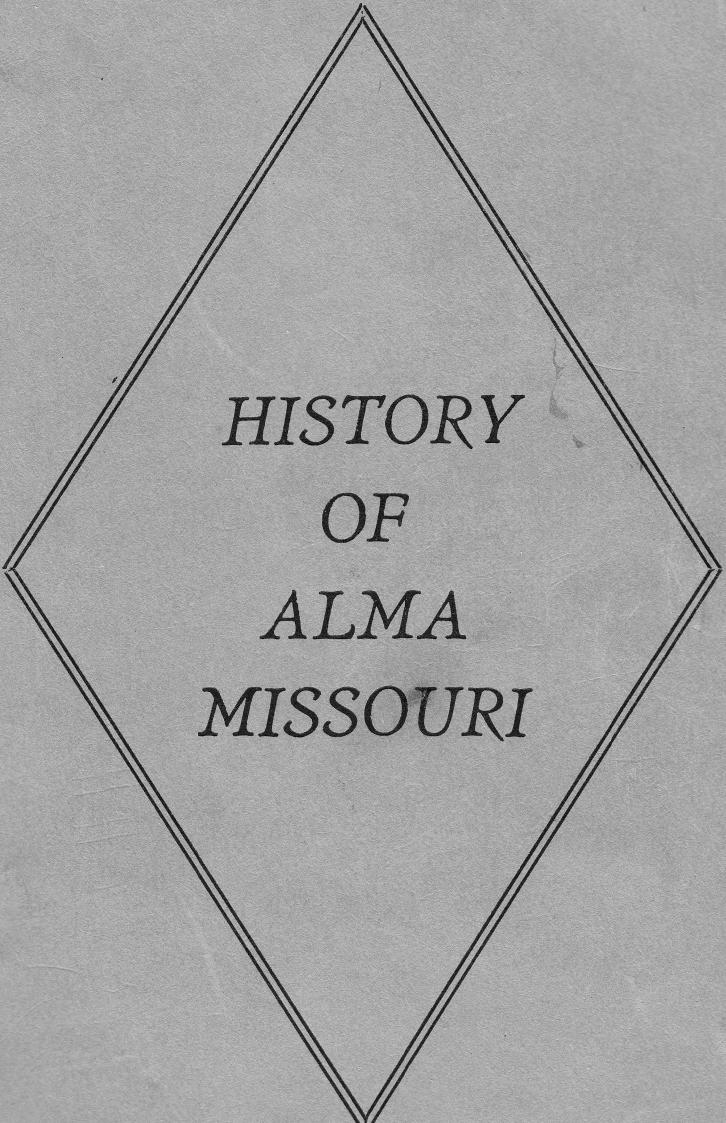


R H Lokaefener
1936



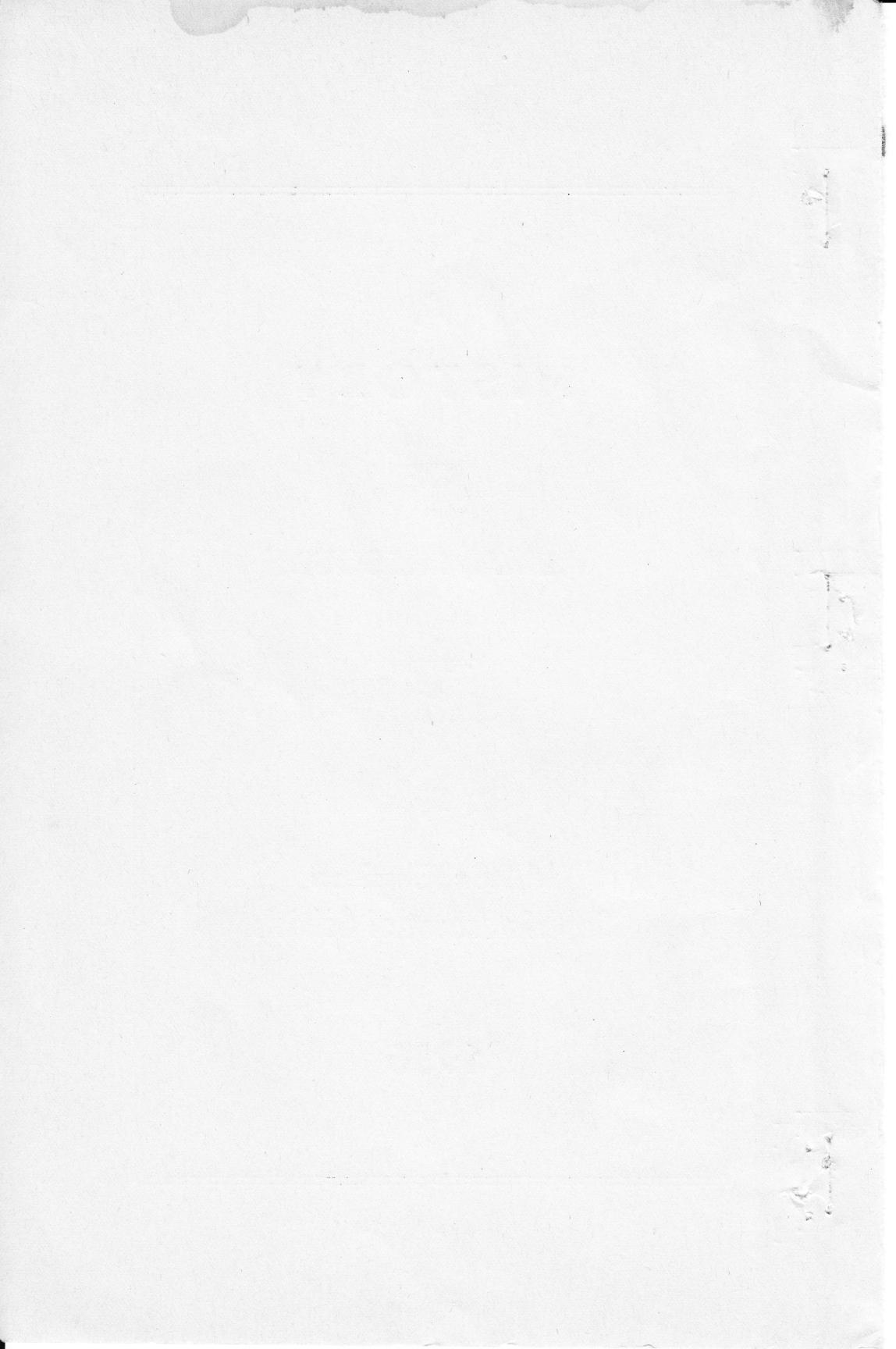
HISTORY
OF
ALMA
MISSOURI

A
HISTORY
OF
ALMA, MISSOURI



By
Milton Garrison
Superintendent of Schools

1936



DEDICATED TO THE FUTURE
CITIZENS WHO WILL APPRE-
CIATE THE COMMUNITY OF
THEIR HERITAGE AND ENVI-
RONMENT.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

The writer gratefully acknowledges the splendid work done by members of the Missouri history classes of Alma High School in 1935 and 1936 in helping to obtain local historical material for this publication. Historical data of the Alma community have been difficult to secure because first hand information can now be obtained from only a few people. The number of pioneers who were here in the eighties and "gay nineties" is small, but the generosity of those few has been outstanding and very much appreciated.

Written sources for this work were very scarce and inadequate; only one copy of the newspaper published in 1894-1895 was available. This limitation has made the information obtained from the interviews with the early citizens even more valuable. Dr. J. G. W. Fischer, who supplied much of the information concerning the business firms of Alma, also read the other chapters of the manuscript and offered valuable criticisms which have been incorporated for the betterment of the book.

To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the progress and development of the Alma community and its citizens have been the writer's earnest purposes.

—M. G.

C O N T E N T S

I.	Location and Origin	4
	A. The name Alma.	
	B. Streets.	
II.	Early Settlers	6
	A. First Settlers.	
	B. Familiar Names in 1883.	
III.	Organization and Government	8
	A. Pioneer Officials.	
	B. Later Officers.	
	C. Fourth Class City.	
	D. Post Offices and Postmasters.	
IV.	Churches	14
	A. Trinity Lutheran Church.	
	B. Federated Church.	
V.	Schools	18
	A. Christian Day Schools.	
	B. Alma Public Schools.	
VI.	The Railroad and Highways	33
	A. Depot Agents and Section Foreman.	
	B. State Highways.	
VII.	Business Firms and Enterprises	36
	A. First Stores.	
	B. Firms in 1894	
	C. Business Directory in 1910.	
	D. Recent Enterprises.	
VIII.	Civic Organizations	46
	A. Alma Community Club.	
	B. Alma Civic Club.	
	C. Alma Bands.	
IX.	Recreation and Entertainment	49
	A. Baseball and Basketball.	
	B. Minor Sports.	
	C. Lutheran Men's Club.	
	D. Picnics and Festivals.	
	E. Golden Jubilee.	
	F. First Annual Fall Festival.	
X.	The People	53
	A. Growth of Population.	
	B. German Immigration.	
	C. Politics.	
	D. Pre-Prohibition Days.	
	E. Conclusion.	



HISTORY OF ALMA

CHAPTER I

Location and Origin

Alma, Missouri, is located almost seventeen degrees west of Washington, D. C., and is near the thirty-ninth parallel of latitude. It can also be described as being sixty-five miles east of Kansas City on the Chicago and Alton Railroad.

Available records show that Alma was founded in 1878 by Captain Erwin Zeysing of Waverly and John M. Woodson, a St. Louis lawyer. The town was named for the latter's daughter, Alma, and in whose memory Mr. Woodson also donated and deeded to the town the park adjoining the depot.

The word "Alma" is a feminine proper noun which means "Nourishing and Cherishing." Most certainly this reveals the spirit of Alma during its progressive history.

Originally Mr. Woodson and Captain Zeysing owned most of the land on the north side of the railroad. At first the people felt that the prices they held for their lots were too high; consequently, the south side was settled and developed several years before the north side.

Most of the streets in the city were named after people who lived here. It is odd, indeed, that a name has never been given to the main business street. Abstracts, deeds, and insurance contracts give its name as County Road; however, in recent years it has been commonly referred to as main street despite the fact that there is an original Main Street. Other streets in the city are as follows:

South of Railroad

North and South Streets:

Edna Avenue, located east of T. C. Marshall's residence; named after Edna Horstman, daughter of H. H. Horstman.

East and West Streets:

South Railroad Avenue, north of H. J. Dieckhoff's res-

idence; so-called because it runs parallel to the railroad.

Collins Street, north of Dieckhoff's Implement Store; named after Samuel C. Collins.

Marshall Street, south of Alma Lumber Company; named after T. C. Marshall.

Lincoln Avenue, south of F. W. McClure's residence; probably named after President Abraham Lincoln.

Clara Avenue, south of L. T. Francis's residence; named after Clara Horstman, daughter of H. H. Horstman.

Flora Avenue, south of Charles Brockhoff's residence; named after Flora Horstman, daughter of H. H. Horstman.

North of Railroad

North and South Streets:

Waverly Avenue, north from depot; probably so-called because it led to the road toward Waverly.

Zeysing Avenue, east of Martha Gieselmann's residence; named after Captain Erwin Zeysing.

Mitchell Avenue, west of high school building.

East and West Streets:

Main Street, north side of park; this was the first main street in Alma.

Second Street, north of Ed. A. Wendt's residence.

Third Street, north of J. E. Fette's residence.

Fourth Street, north of Trinity Lutheran Church.

CHAPTER II

Early Settlers

When John Corder and his wife, Sallie, came from Virginia in 1832 and entered land a few miles south of what is now Alma, there was not a single house between their home and Waverly. Only seventeen years before, Gilead Rupe, the first settler of Lafayette County, had established his home southwest of Lexington. Mr. Corder was a large land owner, having acquired some three thousand acres before his death. He also owned many slaves and used their labor chiefly in growing hemp. A neighbor of the early Corder family was Joseph Collins, who lived at a place since called "Bear's Grove" in Davis township. Patrick Henry was another neighbor who lived south of the Corder estate.

Several years before any settlement was made at Alma the region about Waverly was well inhabited. Settlements then gradually extended to the south of Waverly, a town which was originally known as St. Thomas and later Middleton. After the boundary lines of Middleton Township were defined and recorded in 1848, the name of the town was changed to Waverly.

Five miles southwest of Waverly was a large area of land known as "Shelby Tract," which was settled by the family of General Joseph Shelby before the Civil War. James Jackson, Jr., was born near what is now Alma the year the war closed. He is among the very few people who have lived in the eastern part of the county for more than seventy years.

Prior to 1850 several German families lived south of Davis creek in the vicinity of Concordia. They upheld the customs and traditions of their forefathers, consequently they were not wanted as neighbors by the early native settlers in the Alma vicinity. In fact, for a long time the latter families dared them to cross to the north of the creek. The first German settler to venture across and establish his home was August Schmidt, Sr., in 1848.

Settlements in and around Alma developed rapidly about the time the railroad was built in 1878. Near the present site of the old Maplewood cemetery lived Richard Lillard. He and his wife boarded several of the railroad workers. Charles F. W. Horstman came to the vicinity of Alma in 1873; the next year Herman Dieckhoff arrived here, and the next year Henry Nordsieck settled in the neighborhood. George F. Rogge also came to this part of the township in 1877. In the fall of 1879 P. S. Read and his bride established his present home northeast of Alma. Soon afterwards the first marriage in the town, H. C. Clay to a Miss Milburn, was performed by Thomas Luke, a justice of the peace.

Among those who settled in and near Alma during the period, 1880-1884, were Henry G. Dierker, William H. Kellerman, Dr. J. W. Horner, Frank Becker, P. H. Koppenbrink, F. W. Lohoefer, Henry Bokelman, Henry Nienhauser, and Joseph H. Schmidt. A few of the other familiar family names around Alma in 1883 were Goodwin, Fletcher, Catron, Taylor, Smelser, Reynolds, Schultz, Neal, Morgan, Erdman, Younger, Groves, Kueck, Harding, Peters, Buckley, Steffens, Dryden, Collins, Weston, Mevius, Zeysing, Woodson and Doubbie.

CHAPTER III

Organization and Government

The town site of Alma was incorporated in June, 1880, just a few weeks before James A. Garfield was elected president of the nation. Dr. Thomas H. Field, pioneer merchant of the village, was the first chairman of the village board. Trustees of the village that year were George B. Weston, Samuel C. Collins, W. Doublie and Charles Mevius.

Unfortunately the records of the town board meetings were not preserved from the time of the incorporation of the village in 1880 until 1919. Other sources show that in 1894 the officers were L. E. Johnson, chairman; Herman Bremer, clerk; J. W. Horner, assessor; R. W. Neil, treasurer; P. H. Koppenbrink, collector; and J. W. Horner, W. O. Kueck, and J. C. Goodwin, trustees. In 1910 C. A. Guenther was chairman; T. C. Marshall, clerk; August Buck, marshal; and C. A. Guenther, William Horstman, H. J. Dieckhoff, J. G. Mueller, and Hugo Kleeschulte, trustees.

The town board records show that there have been forty-six ordinances passed by the officials during the existence of the town. The ordinances were last revised in 1903, many of which have since become obsolete and not recognized nor enforced. For instance: Ordinance Seven, Section 24, Revised Ordinances of the Village of Alma, 1903, reads . . . "Whoever shall purposely cause dogs or other animals to fight upon the square, streets, alleys, or other public places of the village shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor." Then again, Section 49 of the same ordinance provided that . . . "No person shall exhibit any kind of machinery on any public square, street, avenue, or alley within the village, and no person shall run or take any road steam engine through any such square, street, avenue, or alley, unless he shall send a messenger along with, and at least one hundred yards in advance of such engine to notify the public of its coming. And it shall be unlawful for any person to blow or sound the whistle of any such engine while passing through said village. Any person violating the pro-

visions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor."

Available sources show that the following citizens served as mayor of Alma after 1903:

-1903	Arthur O'Neil	1932-1933	Hugo Kleeschulte
1904-1905	L. E. Johnson	1933-1934	Ralph Fischer
1906-1914	T. C. Marshall	1935-1936	J. E. Fette
1915-1931	H. A. Dankenbring		

Those who have served on the town board since 1919 are as follows:

1919-1921		William Stuenkel
H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman		William Kellerman, St. Com.
T. C. Marshall, Clerk		H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
John G. Mueller		F. W. McClure, Park Com.
Andy Rolf		F. T. McClure, Collector
O. E. Horstman		
H. J. Dieckhoff		
1922		1925
H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman		H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk		T. C. Marshall, Clerk
Henry Bokelman		Hugo Kleeschulte
E. B. Becker		William Stuenkel
E. W. Klaustermeyer		E. W. Klaustermeyer
Hugo Kleeschulte		William Kellerman, St. Com.
		H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
		F. W. Lohoefer, Park Com.
1923		1926
H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman		Same as in 1925
T. C. Marshall, Clerk		
Henry Bokelman		
William Kellerman		1927
E. W. Klaustermeyer		H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman
Hugo Kleeschulte		T. C. Marshall, Clerk
1924		Fred Franz
E. W. Klaustermeyer, Chairman		H. V. Melin
T. C. Marshall, Clerk		William Stuenkel
H. A. Dankenbring		William Kellerman, St. Com.
Hugo Kleeschulte		H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
		F. W. Lohoefer, Park Com.

1928

H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk
Fred Franz
O. H. Henning
H. V. Melin
William Stuenkel
H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
F. W. Lohoefener, Park Com.

1932

Hugo Kleeschulte, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk
Ralph Fischer
O. H. Henning
F. T. McClure
William Stuenkel, St. Com.
H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
F. W. Lohoefener, Park Com.

1929

H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk
William Stuenkel
H. V. Melin
E. H. Gerschefske
Ed. Biesemeyer, St. Com.
H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
F. W. Lohoefener, Park Com.

1933

Ralph Fischer, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk
Hugo Kleeschulte
O. H. Henning
William Stuenkel, St. Com.
H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
F. W. Lohoefener, Park Com.

1930

H. A. Dankenbring, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk
Ralph Fischer
H. V. Melin
William Stuenkel, St. Com.
H. J. Dieckhoff, Park Com.
F. W. Lohoefener, Park Com.

1934 (Fourth Class City)

Ralph Fischer, Chairman
T. C. Marshall, Clerk
O. H. Henning, 1st Ward
William Stuenkel, 1st Ward
Hugo Kleeschulte, 2nd Ward
H. J. Dieckhoff, 2nd Ward
Ed. Biesemeyer, St. Com.
F. W. Lohoefener, Park Com.

1935

J. E. Fette, Chairman
H. A. Dankenbring, Clerk
Ed. A. Wendt, 1st Ward
August Buck, 1st Ward
Richard Buhlig, 2nd Ward
H. J. Dieckhoff, 2nd Ward
Walter Rist, Collector

1936

Same as in 1935.

In 1909 it became evident to the citizens that the old

frame building used as a jail had become unsafe. Up to this time the town officers had no place in which to hold their meetings. Consequently, the people voted to erect a city hall which would include a modern jail in the basement. A suitable building was erected of concrete blocks at a total cost of \$1,400. Later the building was enlarged to make room for a fire truck.

With the disappearance of the saloons a decade after the new city hall and jail were built, the original purpose of the building became nearly obsolete, as municipal court sessions were seldom held and the jail hardly used. For fifteen years no special police officers have been required in Alma to maintain peace and order. The few minor disturbances which occasionally occur are taken care of by the mayor.

Electric current was at first supplied to the Alma citizens by a plant operated by William Everett and Henry Schumacher. Later, David Riepe operated the plant until about 1924, when the Kansas City Power and Light Company took over control of the service. Few cities the size of Alma can boast of better lighting than its citizens enjoy. Alma has been furnished with natural gas since the gas lines were laid in 1930.

Early in 1934 a petition was circulated among the voters of Alma designed to place before the voters in the annual spring election the proposition for making Alma a fourth-class city. The proposition carried by a vote of 150 for the proposition to 20 votes against it. The principal change made in the government was the method of electing officers. Now the mayor could be selected by a direct vote of all the voters and his term increased from one to two years. The city was divided into two wards, each of which was to be represented by two aldermen elected for two years by the voters in each particular ward. Also, the collector is now elected by all the voters for a two-year term. Some additional authority was vested in the board of aldermen under the new plan. Perhaps, the popularity of the

proposal in the election of 1934 was due largely to the fact that most citizens desired to have Alma classed among the "cities" rather than to continue it in the village category.

During the last decade there have been several minor improvements in the development of the city by its officials. Much street and drainage work, as well as new paint on the city hall, were among the CWA projects carried out in 1933-1934. During the administration of Mayor Ralph Fischer the main business street was also graveled and surfaced with a black top. The streets are maintained from funds derived from poll taxes and special oil levies. All of the main streets have recently been oiled.

The pride of Alma is the little park adjoining the depot in which many picnics, reunions, and other gatherings have been held. With the "old elm" as center of attraction and beauty, this park has drawn a number of compliments from visitors. Certainly a great deal of credit must be given to those patient and deserving caretakers, F. W. Lohoefer and H. J. Dieckhoff, who have taken care of the park for many years.

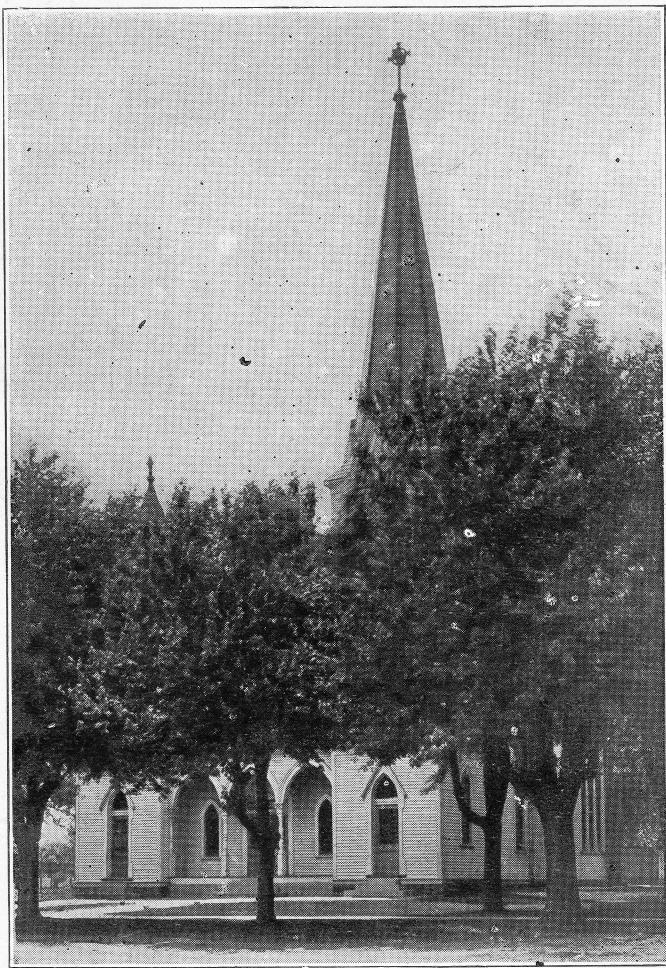
With all the advantages of living in Alma, its citizens are perhaps less burdened with city taxation than any surrounding city. An annual levy of thirty-five or forty cents on the one-hundred dollars assessed valuation raises revenue to furnish street lights, maintain the city hall and jail, keep the fire truck and equipment ready for any emergency, and pay the wages and small salaries. A poll tax of three dollars on all able-bodied male citizens is also levied.

It is estimated that approximately ninety per cent of the people in Alma own their own homes. Further evidence of thrift and interest in the progress of the city is manifested in their pride of keeping the streets, alleys, and lawns clean and beautified. But, perhaps their interest is manifested most by their almost one hundred per cent participation in annual city elections and their harmonious cooperation in all worthwhile civic enterprises.

A postoffice was established in Alma in 1879, and the

postmasters serving have been as follows: Perry Catron, R. W. Neal, J. G. Goodwin, Bettie Goodwin, E. W. Erdman, P. H. Koppenbrink, J. E. Fette, and F. T. McClure. The first rural free delivery route was established in 1903 with S. B. Francis the carrier. The second route was established about a year later with Henry W. Nolte as its carrier. The two routes remained until a consolidation of routes was effected in 1928. The present carrier is Roy Wahrenbrock.

Prior to 1905 the post office was located in E. W. Erdman's Saddle Shop at the site of the present Lohoefer Mercantile Company. Then, when P. H. Koppenbrink received his commission as postmaster from President Theodore Roosevelt in March, 1905, the office was moved to the old hardware building where the Skelly Service Station is now located. In 1915 it was again transferred across the street to the office building owned by Dr. J. G. W. Fischer. It remained there until late in 1935 when Postmaster F. T. McClure moved it into the office building of the late Dr. J. W. Horner. The post office was elevated to the third class in 1921 where it has remained, with the exception of one year, until the present.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



CHAPTER IV

Churches

The life of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church as an organized congregation began January 2, 1875. In the fall of the preceding year, the Rev. J. F. Biltz, pastor of the Lutheran church at Concordia, had been asked by Hermann Dieckhoff, Sr., to conduct preaching services at the old Sunny Bank school house near Alma. This he willingly consented to do. After a few months, the little group of Lutherans felt strong enough to organize as a congregation. On January 2 the first meeting was held and the organization went into effect with the following eight charter members: Claus Henning, George Deterding, John Robohm, Herman Fricke, John Oberkoetter, Herman Dieckhoff, Sr., William Kessler, and John Eckhoff.

The little congregation was still served by Pastor Biltz until the summer of 1878, when a church building was erected one and one-half miles northwest of Alma near the Lutheran cemetery. The building was completed and dedicated in the fall of 1878. At this time a Christian Day school was opened. W. G. Bullinger, a student of theology, was employed to serve the congregation as preacher and teacher. In 1879 the membership of the congregation had so increased that it resolved to call a resident pastor. They chose the Rev. Frederick Rohlfing, who had just graduated at the Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained and installed as pastor on August 22 of that year. Besides his duties as pastor, Rev. Rohlfing assumed those of a teacher of the congregation's children, serving in that capacity for five years. Then he was relieved of the school work by A. Eichmann from the Lutheran Normal School at Addison, Illinois.

Rev. Rohlfing served faithfully and diligently as pastor of the church for forty-two years. Under his leadership the growth in the size of the congregation made it necessary to increase the size of the church building. In 1887 an addition which doubled the seating capacity of the church was constructed. Eight years later the size of the congre-

gation had increased to such an extent that the enlarged building proved too small. Since the growth in membership was greatest in and near Alma, it was found desirable to have the church located in the thriving village. Two blocks or approximately seven acres of land were donated to the congregation by several generous members, and upon this ground the parsonage was built in the summer of 1889. Six years later the present church edifice was built at a total cost of \$10,000. This building was dedicated September 15, 1895.

The zeal of the members became even more manifest. They were willing to lend a helping hand to others. With this spirit and encouragement, Rev. Rohlfing helped to organize Lutheran congregations at Little Rock, near Slater, in 1885; Zion Lutheran church at Corder in 1889; Hazel Hill, two miles west of Waverly, and Blackburn in 1879; and the St. Peter's Evangelical church at Flora in 1900.

Near the close of Rev. Rohlfing's ministry in Alma his health became impaired. For a time the congregation gave him an assistant, the Rev. A. Boepler of St. Paul's college. As the condition of his health steadily grew worse, Rev. Rohlfing resigned in 1921. A call was sent to Rev. A. Griesse, who accepted and was installed as pastor September 11, 1921.

Trinity Lutheran church has continued to grow in faith and membership under the able stewardship of Rev. Griesse. To date the church has sent out thirty pastors and seven teachers from its midst. At the beginning of 1936 the number of baptized members was 603, the number of communicant members 432, and the number of church voters 124.

After the Civil War the little Presbyterian church stood for several years near the cemetery between Alma and Blackburn in what was known as the Maplewood neighborhood. About the time Alma was incorporated the building was moved to where it is now located, however, it is now

known as the Federated church.

From 1883 to 1897 the German Methodists of Alma and vicinity, having the same preacher as the German Methodists of Concordia, used this church building in which to hold their meetings. Rev. Brink was pastor during these years.

In 1897 the little Methodist church of Alma was built on a lot west of the Trinity Lutheran church which is at present the location of the home of George W. Sandford. This little church was just large enough for two short rows of benches with an aisle down the center. It really had the appearance of a school room more than that of a church. Although the building was small, the Methodists boasted an organ and later a bell and bell tower. From 1897 until 1920, the Methodists of Alma and Corder had the same preacher. The first pastor under this plan was Rev. H. H. Peters.

Since the Presbyterian church had been vacated by the Methodists in 1897, three ladies, Mrs. Henry Nolte, Mrs. J. W. Horner, and Anna Koppenbrink, decided to use the building in which to organize an English-speaking Sunday School for those children who had no other place to attend. In 1906 these ladies met with fourteen children and organized a Sunday School. This little organization grew until some years later the older people decided they would have preaching services. Since no one denomination predominated, they were confronted with a great problem in trying to organize the church.

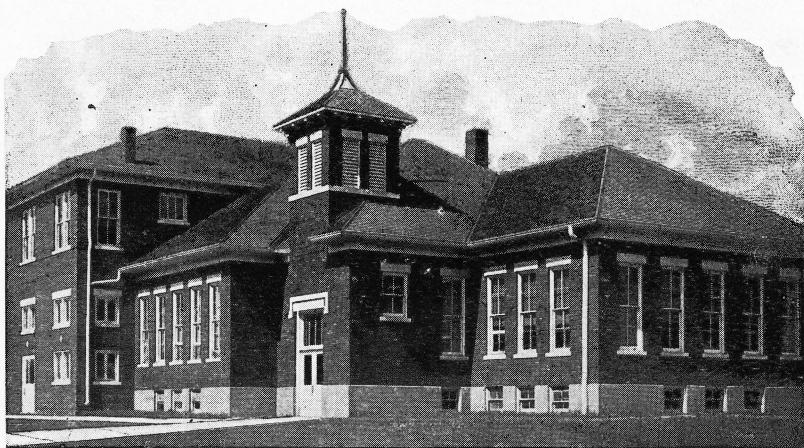
In 1912 Rev. Blaney of Marshall outlined a plan for a Federated organization which would include all denominations. With the aid of Charles Leonard, Presbyterian minister of Marshall; Rev. Hunter, Christian minister of Higginsville; and Rev. Combs, a Baptist minister of Corder, the Alma Federated church was organized with seventeen charter members. Among the first members were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nolte, Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Horner, Mrs. Richard Bohlting, Mable, August, and William Kueck, J. E. Fette, Roy Elsea, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Branscum, W. W. English, Mrs.

S. W. Fletcher, and Floyd and Edith Nowlin. Mrs. J. W. Horner was the first superintendent of the Sunday School. After Mrs. Horner, E. B. Becker has served in this capacity. A few other superintendents have been elected from time to time, but none ever served more than a year or two.

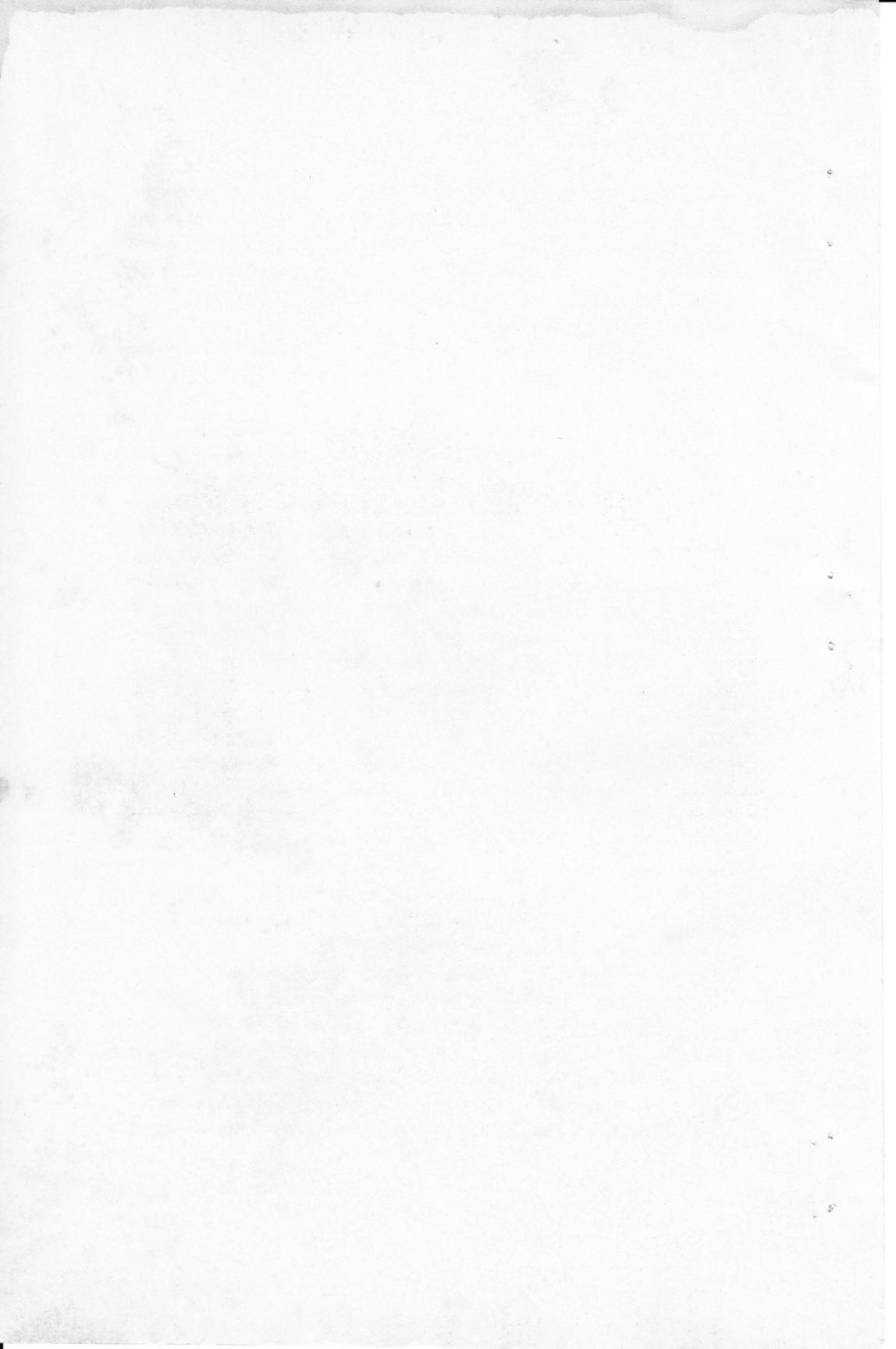
The following is a list of the pastors of the Federated church in the order in which they served: Rev. Charles Leonard, Rev. E. Moneymaker, Rev. Sloan Whitsett, Rev. W. F. Baker, Rev. C. A. Erdman, Rev. Schnackenberg, Dr. R. S. Shepard, Rev. F. W. Denton, Rev. Claude R. Short, and Rev. J. G. Korb.

During Rev. Schnackenberg's pastorate, in 1920, the German Methodists joined with the Federated church. Three years after the Methodists abandoned their little church, it was struck by lightning and burned.

The Federated church now has seventy-five members and ninety enrolled in Sunday School. Rev. J. G. Korb, the present pastor, is also pastor of the Corder Methodist church. The present Sunday School teachers who assist E. B. Becker, superintendent, are as follows: Mrs. Henry Nolte, Mrs. A. H. Knipmeyer, Mrs. E. B. Becker, Mrs. F. T. McClure, Mrs. Frank Becker, Mrs. S. W. Fletcher, and George W. Sandford.



ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL



CHAPTER V

Schools

One of the first schools in the vicinity of Alma was the old Shelby College on the present S. W. Fletcher farm. This institution was founded and established several years before Alma was settled; in fact, by 1880 the college was no longer maintained. It was constructed on a five-acre tract, and to the north of the college was built a home for the teachers. Among the students of this boarding school were Ike Taylor, Jonas Lewis, and the mother and uncles of S. W. Fletcher. One of the first instructors of the college was Professor Clark.

The history of the Christian Day schools began in 1878 when W. G. Bullinger of Sioux City, Iowa, was engaged as the first teacher. He served one term. Then Rev. Rohlfing taught for five years, after which A. Eichmann from Addison, Illinois accepted a call. He taught forty-three years in the same school room. This was the church building originally located one and one-half miles northwest of Alma.

When the new church was built in 1895, a part of the old building was remodeled to make it a more suitable school room. In 1891 another school was erected four miles southeast of town. Miss Harms of Concordia was engaged as teacher. In 1892 C. Topel took charge of the south school and served until 1900. The enrollment at the north school increased so rapidly that a change became necessary. Thereupon, the south school was moved to one mile south of town and those pupils living in town, who had previously been attending the north school, were now sent to the south one.

After the Flora congregation was organized in 1900, the south school was closed and all the children attended Mr. Eichmann's school north of town. With an enrollment of ninety pupils, it was apparent that the teaching load was too heavy for Mr. Eichmann. Consequently, W. E. Homann, a student, was engaged to open the south school which had been moved to town in 1903. Mr. Homann taught in 1906-1907, after which a call was sent to Ed. A. Wendt

to teach here. Mr. Wendt taught the school for twelve years. From 1919 to 1921, Rev. P. Breitag, Rev. H. Meyer, and Martin Kiehl taught in this school. In 1911 the new brick school house was built.

During the summer of 1921, a call to this school was accepted by V. C. Lang, who was then teaching in Omaha, Nebraska. That year there were sixty pupils attending the brick school. During this time the community had been divided into two school districts. Those pupils living in town and southeast of it were assigned to the town district; those living north and west belonged to Mr. Eichmann's school. However, in 1921 and 1922 the town school became overcrowded and a new arrangement had to be made. It was decided to move the north school building to town and divide the grades so that one teacher would have grades one to four, and the other, grades five to eight. Mr. Eichmann chose the primary grades and Mr. Lang taught the upper grades. This plan was discussed and accepted in the July meeting of 1922; the same plan is now used.

In the fall of 1922 and the spring of 1923 the two teachers' dwellings were built. In the meantime Mr. Lang accepted a call which brought E. W. O. Rotermund here as his successor. In 1926 Mr. Eichmann died and Carl Wyssmann accepted a call here from Stover, Missouri. In 1930 Mr. Rotermund accepted a call to St. Louis and Walter Beyerlein came here from West Ely, Missouri.

The work done in the secular branches of the Christian Day schools is acknowledged by the county superintendent of schools as being equal to that done in the best first grade schools of the county. The present enrollment in the schools is approximately one hundred pupils.

The heritage of public education in Alma can be traced to the building of the little frame school house in 1880, the year the village was incorporated. This building was located just north of the present high school and was attended by thirty pupils, among whom were S. W. Fletcher and Daisy Corder. Cassie Bascom was the first teacher. She

received forty-five dollars a month for her services. The original building, erected at a cost of seven hundred dollars, was moved in 1912, and was later used in the construction of the present home of L. T. Francis.

Among the pupils in the early eighties were three energetic young ladies; namely, Bettie Goodwin, Georgia Fletcher, and Nora Reynolds, who edited a little paper called the Alma Courier. This was a monthly publication of about fifteen pages, all written by hand on a good quality of essay paper and tied at the top with pink and blue silk ribbons. The issues of 1883 contained news of Alma and surrounding community, editorials, a few line ads, and some school news. The subscription price was two dollars per year.

Miss Bascom, now Mrs. John Kirkpatrick of Odessa, Mo., taught three terms, after which she was followed by Mary Young. Dick Woodle was the next teacher. He conducted many spelling matches; his best spellers were Daisy Corder and John Fletcher. Other pupils taught by Professor Woodle were S. W. Fletcher, August Buck, Addie and Jesse Corder, John, Victor, and Carrie Tieman. At that time only the section house, depot, and the houses where William Stuenkel and Milton Garrison now live, were on the north side of the railroad track with the little school house. A road ran diagonally from a point where Hermann Dieckhoff now lives to Mrs. Dave Riepe's property. One of the exciting sports of the school children then was to chase the rabbits to cover under the board porch and walk about the school building.

The enrollment gradually increased to the extent that it became necessary to add a second teacher in 1894. By 1909 the enrollment was fifty-seven and the average wages paid to the teachers was fifty-five dollars per month. That year the assessed valuation of the district was \$97,000. Three years later the little frame building was replaced by a brick building with a full basement. The total cost of this construction was \$6,000.

In the fall of 1920 Professor Scotten offered to teach the first year of high school in addition to his regular work. His proposition was accepted by the board, and in this way a campaign for a permanent high school developed. In 1921-1922 Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nolte were engaged to teach two years of high school, and the next term a third-year course was added. A course in French was introduced in 1921, and the following year physics was added to the curriculum.

While Mr. Nolte was superintendent several interested patrons began an earnest campaign for a new building which would be adequate for a first class high school. To make the plan possible it was decided to attempt a consolidation of the Sunny Bank and Eureka districts with the Alma district, thereby increasing the assessed valuation to the desired amount and thus distribute the tax burden. An election was called and the consolidation was assured by a very narrow margin of votes. Members of the board of education at this time were A. H. Kueck, S. W. Fletcher, J. W. Goodwin, Ed. Corley, John Schmidt, and Charles Lovercamp. Prior to this time only three members composed the Alma board, but under the consolidation law provision was made for six members. Immediately voters of the new consolidation established a precedent by selecting two members from each of the former rural districts to serve on the board.

Soon after the consolidation another election was called to vote bonds for a new building. The \$30,000 bond issue carried and immediately plans were made to construct the building which included a gymnasium, laboratory, and a series of classrooms. New plumbing was provided and a modern heating plant was installed. Also, new seats, desks, and other equipment were purchased at this time. The bonds for the building have been paid regularly and promptly as they come due, the last of which will be paid in 1938.

Since the new building was completed during the winter of 1923-1924, it was necessary to make the transition from the old to the new building in mid-term. That day

was an eventful one in the career of those high school boys and girls, who, with their books and accessories, moved out of the overcrowded, dark basement into the new, spacious, well-lighted, and adequately equipped rooms.

In 1924 a complete change was made in the teaching staff, including the grade teachers. The following year the high school faculty was changed, but since then there has never been a complete change in the high school faculty for any one year. The same has been true of the elementary faculty since 1926. A list of the teachers since 1880 follows:

1880-1883	Cassie Bascom	1904-1905	H. H. Schoperkotter
1883-1884	Mary Young		Florence Kidd
1884-1885	Dick Woodle	1905-1908	John Taylor
1888-1889	James Thomas		Florence Kidd
1889-1893	George W. Marquis	1908-1910	Wm. H. Guenther
1893-1894	S. I. Arthur		Winnie George
1894-1896	S. I. Arthur Johnny Masterson	1910-1911	Ben McGee
1896-1898	S. I. Arthur Suzy Campbell		Nan Branch
1898-1901	W. R. Flint Suzy Campbell	1911-1915	W. W. English
1901-1902	George Osborn— Prof. Jenkins Clara Porter		Nan Branch
1902-1903	Arthur O'Neil Mary Larkin	1915-1917	Paul Heerwald
1903-1904	Arthur O'Neil Florence Kidd		Beulah Gerrard
		1917-1918	O. M. Scotten
			Gertrude Zeitz
		1918-1919	Gertrude Zeitz
			Nina McIntosh
		1919-1920	Gertrude Zeitz
			Elizabeth Ashurst

The following are the teachers since the establishment of the high school. The first three names in the latter groups are the high school teachers, with the superintendent principal, and assistant listed in the order as read; the next is the intermediate teacher, and the other, primary teacher.

1920-1921	O. M. Scotten (1 year of H. S.) Flo Worm	Nellie Nolte (2 Years of H. S.) Gertrude Zeitz Blanche Erdman
1921-1922	Roy Nolte	

1922-1923	Roy Nolte Nellie Nolte (3 Years of H. S.) Gertrude Zeitz Blanche Erdman	Claude R. Short Ethel Pierce Ruth Utz Gertrude Ashford
1923-1924	Roy Nolte Nellie Nolte Mary Ellen Sever Gertrude Zeitz Blanche Erdman	1928-1930 J. Otto Huston Claude R. Short Alice Bailey Annabell Skillman Gertrude Ashford
1924-1925	Harvey Devold Jessie Bannerman Florence Harrison Ida Kueck Gertrude Gwinner	1930-1932 J. Otto Huston Claude R. Short Alice Bailey Annabell Skillman Gladys Meyer
1925-1926	J. Otto Huston W. F. Crissman Ethel Pierce Ida Kueck Celia Liese	1932-1934 Milton Garrison Garland T. Scott Alice Bailey Clara Newland Gladys Meyer Claude R. Short
1926-1927	J. Otto Huston Claude R. Short Ethel Pierce Ida Kueck Celia Liese	1936-1937 Milton Garrison Alice Bailey Garland T. Scott Ernest Willer Clara Newland Pauline Mallman
1927-1928	J. Otto Huston	

After the consolidation program was effected the two rural schools, Sunny Bank and Eureka, continued for a few years. Eula Jackson taught the former school prior to its closing in 1923. Nearly forty years ago Miss Kate Dean began teaching at the Eureka school. She taught the school for five years, after which she became the bride of S. W. Fletcher. P. S. Read was a member of the school board at that time; in fact, he was a member of the board more than twenty years. Among the last teachers at Eureka were Inga McFarland, Ross Taylor, and Viola Sass. The school was closed in 1933 and the pupils transported to the Alma schools.

A system of transportation was developed beginning in 1932. Since that year E. J. McGuire has been employed to

transport the Alma colored children to Blackburn. After 1934 Henry Pragman transported one pupil from the northwest corner of the district to Alma. The next year Mr. McGuire was also engaged as bus driver for a group of pupils from the eastern part of the district to the high school.

When the new building was constructed in 1923 it was necessary for the board to employ a full-time janitor and caretaker. William Fette served in this capacity until 1928, after which August Buck was employed.

There have been 113 graduates since the establishment of the Alma High School, forty-four per cent of whom have attended schools of higher learning. There were six graduates in the smallest class, 1924, while the largest class, 1929, had seventeen members. However, twenty students are expected in the graduating class of 1937. The following is the alumni directory at present.

1924

Ellmaker, Charles	Farmer	Alma, Missouri
Holtzen, Gertrude	Mrs. Hans Schmidt	Delmont, S. Dak.
Kleeschulte, Wilburn	Salesman	Kansas City, Missouri
Lohoefer, Selma	Mrs. Alvin Lange	Wimbledon, N. Dak.
Tieman, Erich	Creamery Manager	Higginsville, Mo.
Weisbrodt, Esther	Mrs. Edgar Brohm	Burwell, Nebraska

1925

Corley, Anna Lee	Mrs. Oscar Lemke	Sweet Springs, Mo.
Erdman, James	Salesman	Marshall, Mo.
Fette, William	Day Laborer	Alma, Mo.
Fletcher, Frances Lu	Mrs. Frank Kenney	Mound City, Kans.
Jackson, Anna Mary	Instructor	Sweet Springs, Mo.
Schaefer, Erich	Farmer	Alma, Mo.

1926

Buhlig, Laura	Mrs. Herbert Schmidt	Waverly, Mo.
Fette, Louis	Baseball Pitcher	St. Paul, Minn - Boston Mass.
Fischer, Florence	Mrs. Fred Rolf	Alma, Mo.
Henning, Marie	Mrs. Emerson Farrell	Henley, Mo.
Lewis, Lester	Road Builder	Parkville, Mo.
Rohlfing, Esther	Mrs. Stanley Haslett	Los Angeles, Calif.
Schmidt, Walter	Farmer	Alma, Mo.

1927

Dieckhoff, Walter	Farmer-Radiotrician	Alma, Mo.
Goodwin, Jack	Clerical Work	Kansas City, Mo.
Kurtz, Emma	Mrs. R. O. Sweeney	Cedarvale, Kans.
McGuire, Edwin	Bus Driver	Alma, Mo.
Rist, Walter	Hardware Dealer	Alma, Mo.
Stewart, James	Truck Driver	St. Louis, Mo.
Tieman, Emil	Farmer	Alma, Mo.

1928

Corley, Helen	Mrs. Lilburn Cooper	Horton, Kans.
Fischer, Velma	Telephone Operator	Alma, Mo.
Fletcher, Harold	Salesman	Milwaukee, Wis.
Francis, Violet	Mrs. William Weber	Sweet Springs, Mo.
Hader, Lilburn	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Henning, Ralph	Merchant	Alma, Mo.
Kleeschulte, Ruby	Mrs. Theodore Evert	Sweet Springs, Mo.
Melin, Henry V. Jr.	Salesman	Kansas City, Mo.
Rolf, Herbert	In School	Columbia, Mo.
Tieman, Albert	Farmer	Alma, Mo.

1929

Ashurst, Robert	Credit Man	St. Louis, Mo.
Fette, Viola	Deceased	
Franz, Alfred	Bank Bookkeeper	Alma, Mo.
Fuchs, Laura	Mrs. W. C. Foreman	Kansas City, Mo.
Goodwin, Phillip	In School	Marshall, Mo.
Hader, Erwin	Service Sta. Attendant	Alma, Mo.
Hampy, Lorna	Mrs. Fred Zobel	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Holtzen, Otto	Clerical Work	Wichita Falls, Texas
Horstman, Gertrude	Domestic Service	Kansas City, Mo.
Jackson, Dorothy	Instructor	Lexington, Mo.
Kessler, Lolita	Clerical Work	Kansas City, Mo.
Melin, Edward	Instructor	Slater, Mo.
Northern, Alonzo	Pump Shop Employee	Alma, Mo.
Rolf, Herman	Creamery Employee	Higginsville, Mo.
Runge, Theodora	Instructor	Alma, Mo.
Schmidt, Arthur	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Williams, Irene	Mrs. Luther Fox	Corder, Mo.

1930

Allen, Woodrow	Newspaper Agent	Alma, Mo.
Fette, Irene	Creamery Employee	Alma, Mo.
Lewis, Eugene	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Schuette, Albert	Creamery Employee	Alma, Mo.
Tieman, Raymond	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Wendt, Bernhard	Trucking Service	Alma, Mo.

1931

Branscum, Avis	At Home	Kansas City, Mo.
Brockhoff, Waldo	Mechanic	Alma, Mo.
Ellmaker, Russell	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Fuchs, Emma	Mrs. Russell Stofer	Kansas City, Mo.
Hink, Norman	Instructor	Cole Camp, Mo.
Krause, Regina	Nurse	St. Louis, Mo.
Northern, Henrietta	Mrs. W. Wyrick	Marshall, Mo.

1932

Fletcher, George B.	Salesman	Reno, Nevada
Griesse, Ruth	Nurse Training	St. Louis, Mo.
Krause, Kordula	Mrs. Bernhard Wendt	Alma, Mo.
Mueller, Albert	Garage Bookkeeper	Alma, Mo.
Rolf, Renata	Post Office Deputy	Alma, Mo.
Tieman, Richard	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Wagner, Anita	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Wyssman, Ruth	Domestic Service	Kansas City, Mo.

1933

Bargfrede, Vernita	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Becker, Howard	In School	Columbia, Mo.
Corder, Carl	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Franke, George	CCC Camp	Litchfield, Calif.
Franz, Erna	Mrs. Albert Schuette	Alma, Mo.
Kammeyer, Armin	Day Laborer	Alma, Mo.
Kappelman, Hosea	Creamery Employee	Alma, Mo.
Krause, Werner	Government Clerk	Wichita, Kans.
Maddox, Billy Tom	In School	Fayette, Mo.
Wahlers, Marie	In School	Warrensburg, Mo.

1934

Breder, Paula	Mrs. Ralph Limbach	Blackburn, Mo.
Ellmaker, Frances	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Everett, Gladys	At Home	Almeda, Texas
Francis, Cecil	In School	Columbia, Mo.
Frerking, Herbert	In School	Columbia, Mo.
Fuchs, Lydia	Creamery Employee	Alma, Mo.
Heins, Emma	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Holden, Lacey Mae	At Home	Mt. Leonard, Mo.
Karsten, Vera	In School	Chillicothe, Mo.

1935

Allen, Roy	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Brockhoff, Ralph	Produce Co. Employee	Alma, Mo.
Hackett, Sherman	Day Laborer	Alma, Mo.
Jackson, J. Y. Jr.	Farmer	Alma, Mo.

Karsten, Wilfred	Produce Co. Employee	Alma, Mo.
Kalthoff, Leonard	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Lohoeefener, Evelyn	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Priess, Violet	Nurse Training	Kansas City, Mo.
Wahlers, Raymond	Farmer	Higginsville, Mo.
Wendt, Nola	In School	Chillicothe, Mo.

1936

Bargfrede, Lucille	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Bargfrede, Olinda	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Corder, James	In School	Columbia, Mo.
Dieckhoff, Lorenz	Implement Dealer	Alma, Mo.
Jackson, Everett	Farmer	Alma, Mo.
Krause, Aurelius	Plumbing Shop Work	Alma, Mo.
Meyer, Margaret	At Home	Blackburn, Mo.
Nordsieck, Vera	At Home	Alma, Mo.
Schumacher, Warner	Drug Store Clerk	Alma, Mo.

The opening-day enrollment in the Alma High School for the past seven years has been as follows:

1929-1930 — 37	1932-1933 — 50
1930-1931 — 43	1933-1934 — 60
1931-1932 — 44	1934-1935 — 64

1935-1936 — 65

Basketball has been outstanding among the extra-curricular activities of Alma High School. Before the new building was completed, the sport was practiced and played on outdoor courts and a part of the time in the old hardware building. The first team to represent Alma was composed of Louis Fette, Erich Tieman, Charles Ellmaker, Erich Schaefer, Walter Schmidt, and Wilburn Kleeschulte. Roy Nolte was the coach. The record of this team was as follows: 1922, won eleven games, lost two; 1923, won twenty-one, lost two; and 1924, won sixteen, lost eight. The team in 1925, coached by Harvey Devold, won all but two of its games during the season. It also won the Class C championship in the state tournament at Columbia.

The team in 1925-1926, coached by W. F. Crissman, also had an enviable record. It won twenty-four games, lost three, and accumulated 904 points while its opponents made 321. This team was never defeated in the county

conference, Lexington or Carrollton tournaments. Members of the team were Louis Fette, Walter Rist, Claude Morgan, Erich Dieckhoff, and Walter Schmidt. That same year a girls' basketball team was organized and coached by Superintendent Huston. It finished second in the county conference. Viola Fette, Helen Corley, Ruby Kleeschulte, Laura Buhlig, Esther Rohlfing, and Marie Henning were members of that team.

The boys' team of 1927, coached by Claude R. Short, won all but two of its games during the season, and accumulated 1041 points to its opponents 621. Members of this team were Edwin McGuire, Walter Rist, Claude Morgan, Erich Dieckhoff, and Harold Fletcher. It also participated in the state tournament. No records have been preserved concerning the teams of 1928 and 1929. However, it is known that the latter team was among the best that ever represented A. H. S.

During the season of 1929-1930 the boys' team won twelve games and lost thirteen, while the girls' team won ten and lost eleven. This year both teams had several inexperienced players. The next season, neither boys' nor girls' teams were outstanding, yet both won a large percentage of the games played.

The girls' team of 1931-1932 was fairly successful during the season and at tournaments. However, there were fewer girls' teams in the local territory, consequently games were hard to find. This was the last girls' basketball team that represented Alma High. The boys' team that year was composed of Hosea Kappelman, George B. Fletcher, George Franke, Richard Tieman, Armin Kammeyer, Leslie Summers, Billy Tom Maddox, and Werner Krause. It won a majority of the games, including the championship cup at the Central College tournament, Fayette, Missouri.

The Bulldogs of 1932-1933 enjoyed a very successful season under the coaching of Claude R. Short. They won thirty games out of thirty-four played. They also held the distinction of being the only team to defeat the strong St.

Paul's academy quintet, a feat twice performed, and until the district tournament, they were the only team to win over Buckner, Jackson County champions. Malta Bend, Saline County champions, also suffered defeat when they met the Bulldogs. Altogether the team scored 869 points to their opponents' 515. Captain Hosea Kappelman had the honor twice conferred upon him of being named a member of the all-star teams, once on the Missouri Valley tournament team from 96 competitors, and again on the all-star team at the Warrensburg district tournament where 112 players competed. Leslie Summers, forward, was the high-point man on the team that year; he "ripped" the nets for a total of 201 points.

The team in 1933-1934 also enjoyed a successful season, winning a large majority of the games played. It made a total of 486 points to 289 for the opponents. J. Y. Jackson, Jr., was the leading scorer with 145 points. This team remained intact for the succeeding season when Garland T. Scott began coaching here. That year it won thirty-four of the forty-three games played for a total of 1201 points to their opponents' 642. Lambert Zumbehl led the team this year with 267 points. This team participated in six tournaments, winning first at Odessa; second at Lexington, Brunswick, and Fayette; third at Warrensburg; and consolation at Glasgow.

Coach Scott had to rebuild the team at the beginning of the 1935-1936 season as a result of losing six players by graduation. The Bulldogs this year won twenty-one games and lost seven. They were the champions of the county outdoor conference, Lafayette County tournament, Alma Invitational tournament, and the Odessa Invitational tournament. Members of this team were James Corder, Everett Jackson, J. M. Elsea, Jr., Rodney Becker, Warner Schumacher, Bobbie Becker, Harold Schmidt, and Gentry Everett.

One of the outstanding events of the 1935-1936 school year was the first high school invitational tournament held on January 17 and 18. Eight teams, Dover, Concordia,

Blackburn, St. Paul's Academy, Corder, Odessa, Knobnoster and Alma, participated. The final game was a thriller in which Alma won over Knobnoster in an overtime period. The tournament was a success from the standpoint of interest for the spectators, as well as an advertisement for the school.

The high school boys and girls have engaged in baseball, tennis, track and field sports as spring activities. The latter sport continued until 1932 when the girls played playground baseball and the boys had regular baseball along with tennis. The boys' baseball teams of 1933, 1934, and 1935 won a total of eleven games while losing only four. The girls' playground team of 1935-1936 won all of the games played.

It has long been a custom for the junior and senior classes of A. H. S. to present plays for the public. The following plays have been given by the juniors since 1930: 1930, "A Poor Married Man"; 1931, "Betty's Last Bet"; 1933, "He's My Pal"; 1934, "Go Slow, Mary"; 1935, "Here Comes Charley"; and 1936, "Dotty and Daffy." The senior plays have been: 1930, "Cheer Up, Chad"; 1931, "Mary's Millions"; 1933, "Fifty-Fifty"; 1934, "Spooky Tavern"; 1935, "Lookin' Lovely"; and 1936, "For Pete's Sake." About 1928-1929 an operetta was presented by the high school pupils. A very popular musical operetta entitled "Tune In" was presented by the high school in 1936. Various other programs and entertainments have been presented for the enjoyment of the public since the beginning of the school; among the most enjoyable have been the last day programs, preceded by bountiful basket dinners. A parent-teachers association was organized about 1926. At one time it was very active in sponsoring parties and programs. This organization was abandoned in 1931.

Prior to 1933 it was a custom for each junior class of A. H. S. to give the senior class a banquet in the spring. Since then the juniors have combined education with pleasure by taking the graduating class by motor bus or cars to

either Jefferson City or Kansas City for a day's outing. Another traditional event has been the annual Sophomore Hallowe'en party to which all classes have been invited.

The school has participated in the county literary and music contests for several years. Its spelling team won first in the county contest in 1934. Contestants representing Alma were Nola Wendt, Alice Arndt, Evelyn Lohoefer, Bobbie Becker, and Glenn Hanneman. The following year the Alma spellers won second in the county, and first and third individual prizes in the Chillicothe Business College contests.

Music was included in the course of studies for the first time in 1935 when Garland Scott directed the chorus and Professor Willer was engaged to develop and direct an orchestra.

One of the most worthwhile activities of Alma High School has been the mimeographed publication of the "Beacon," which has grown to an eight-page paper with more than one hundred forty subscribers. The first issue of this paper was produced on October 23, 1929; Alice Bailey, Claude R. Short, and members of the student body took active parts in editing the paper that year. The original issue consisted of only four pages, but was published with six pages the following year; it was increased to eight pages in 1932. Since its beginning the "Beacon" has been issued twice each month during the school year with the exception of 1931-1932 when it was abandoned. The enterprise was renewed in 1932 and has since been edited by the public speaking class under the direction of Alice Bailey. Editors of the "Beacon" since its origin have been Irene Fette, Emma Fuchs, Werner Krause, Lydia Fuchs, Nola Wendt, and Aurelius Krause.

The graduating class in 1933 set a precedent which has been followed by subsequent classes. That year the class left the school an electric bell system and pictures for the English room. In 1934 the class purchased an electric clock for the study hall and planted shrubbery in front of

the building. The gift of the class in 1935 was a trophy cabinet, and that of the class of 1936, three pieces of stage furniture. All of these gifts are very useful and highly appreciated by the pupils who follow.

One of the commendable qualities of the Alma board of education has been its policy of keeping the school plant well equipped and repaired. In 1933 a well seventy feet deep and five feet in diameter was dug on the school ground; it provides plenty of pure water. The next year the interior of the building was redecorated with the aid of CWA labor. Also a new roof was placed on the building, and a complete job of rewiring was done to eliminate fire hazards and lower the insurance rates. In 1935 window strips were put on and caulking was provided for the door and window casings. Recent improvements have also been made to the heating plant and plumbing system. During these years, the laboratory, and especially the library, have been developed by additions. The latter now contains over one thousand volumes of usable reference and supplementary books; a very practical supplement to the library has been the provision for a dozen or more of good magazines each year. In 1934 visual education service was made possible for the high school through the purchase of an Edison projector and stereopticon.

The present members of the Alma board of education are as follows: Henry Pragman, president; Alvin Zumbehl, vice-president; J. E. Fette, secretary; T. C. Marshall, treasurer; George Dieckhoff, John Schmidt, and Otto Meyer, members.

CHAPTER VI

The Railroad and Highways

In 1878 the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroad was completed across Lafayette County from east to west. The issuing of municipal bonds at that time to aid the development of railroads was prohibited by a provision in the Missouri Constitution of 1875. However, donations, subscriptions, and rights-of-way were given in aid of the line. The completion of this railroad marked the beginning of rapid development in Alma.

The first trains ran over the new road at about twenty-five miles per hour. Apparently, the road bed was not well settled at first in some places because the passenger coaches were said to have been very rough in which to ride. One account written in 1883 mentions that the heavy rains that spring had made riding on the railroad unsafe.

The Alma depot was built soon after the railroad was completed. Among the first depot agents were C. W. Culver, and later, a man by the name of King. Early in the nineties T. C. Marshall was agent. He was followed by J. B. Schroll, who in turn was succeeded by "Mike" Anderson. Then Hugo Kleeschulte took charge of the depot.

One of the first foremen of the local section group was William Kline. After 1895 he was replaced by August Buck. Then Mr. Buck was succeeded by a man named Blackburn, who gave way three or four years later to Henry Tagtmeyer. The latter was followed by James Williams, the present foreman.

At first the passenger and freight rates on the local railroad were rather high. However, very satisfactory service was given. The following time table is copied from the "Alma Courier," August 11, 1894.

C. & A. RAILROAD Time Table East Bound

No. 47, Mail Train	10:13 A. M.
No. 49, St. Louis Ex.	10:22 P. M.

No. 51, Chicago Ex.	8:19 P. M.
No. 101, Local Frt.	1:30 P. M.

West Bound

No. 48, Mail Train	5:20 P. M.
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No. 50, K. C. Lmted.	5:06 A. M.
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No. 52, K. C. Ex.	6:58 A. M.
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No. 102, Local Frt.	8:55 A. M.
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Nos. 49 and 50 do not stop.

Nos. 51 and 52 stop on signal.

Nos. 101 and 102 are daily, except Sunday.

T. C. MARSHALL,
Ticket Agent.

In 1909 the county was the scene of much preliminary work in the construction of an electric trolley system which was to be built from St. Louis to Kansas City. The road as surveyed would pass through Alma. Considerable capital had been raised and rights-of-way obtained before the project was suddenly abandoned.

Several wrecks have occurred on the railroad near Alma. About 1900 there was a freight train wrecked in which several sheep were injured or killed. In 1906 a passenger train was wrecked at the crossing less than a mile west of town; some men were injured, but there were no fatal injuries. In 1917 several oil tank cars were badly damaged in a wreck two miles west of Alma; the next year several carloads of meat were derailed near town, at which time several nice hams and pieces of bacon mysteriously disappeared. Then in 1931 a freight wreck occurred in which fruit cars were badly damaged. This was an inducement for several of the sight-seers to sample the oranges. Two years later ten cars were derailed a mile west of town. This was followed on February 19, 1936 when ten cars were derailed near the east boundary of the city. At this time the track was considerably damaged.

Few records have been kept concerning the roads in the vicinity of Alma. An account written soon after the town was organized states that it was almost impossible to travel

over the roads during the rainy seasons. One writer describes them as being narrow, rough, and very uncomfortable over which to ride.

For several years a special road district has been maintained known as the Alma-Corder Special Road District. A small rate is levied each year on the taxable property in the district to take care of the roads and bridges. John Schuett, Sr., has served as one of the road commissioners since 1922; John Summers served nine years, beginning in 1927. He was replaced by Ed. Nienhauser. Mr. Schuett and Mr. Nienhauser are the present commissioners.

Two changes in the roads made a few years ago were the construction of the one less than one-half mile south of town and the road to Waverly which was formerly traveled by turning east at teh Three Groves church, then north.

State highway No. 23, from Higginsville to Marshall, was constructed in 1933. About two years later No. 20 was completed from Concordia to Waverly, with the exception of an underpass under the C. and A. railroad. The contract was let for this construction in 1936. Both these highways are hard-surfaced with gravel, the latter one being graveled with rock material from a quarry five miles north of Alma. Clint Salyer is the present local highway custodian.

CHAPTER VII

Business Firms and Enterprises

The first store in the vicinity of Alma was owned and operated by a man named Dickey whose establishment was located about two miles east and north of what is now Alma on the exact site of the present home of Henry Fiene. A blacksmith shop was located across the road near the old Maplewood church during the time of the Dickey store. The store burned in 1879. Then after the railroad was completed, homes and stores began to appear in Alma.

The first store in Alma stood in the present location of the first house east of the high school. It was owned and operated by C. Steffens. One preserved account (June 8, 1883) states that this worthy merchant was buying shoes on that particular day, and that he would have a full and complete line in a day or so.

John W. Lewis and R. W. Neil built the first store on what is now the main street of Alma. It was located at the present site of F. W. McClure's store and was a general merchandise and implement firm. After a few years Lewis and Neil sold out, and Dr. Thomas H. Field established his drug store there. A few years later Dr. J. T. Morgan practiced medicine and conducted this store. He kept on hand a large supply of the celebrated "lemon pills," and he also was available when people needed teeth extracted.

Recorded accounts of 1883 reveal that G. W. Culver was learning telegraphy at the Alma depot; Frank Schultz and Company had on hand several fancy side saddles for the ladies, and R. W. Neal was well supplied with a full line of farming implements. That was a great year for grain crops. J. T. Goodwin sold fourteen Deering binders and Lewis-Peters & Company sold thirteen McCormicks. It was also reported that the blacksmiths were doing a lively business in the way of repairing machines for the bountiful harvest.

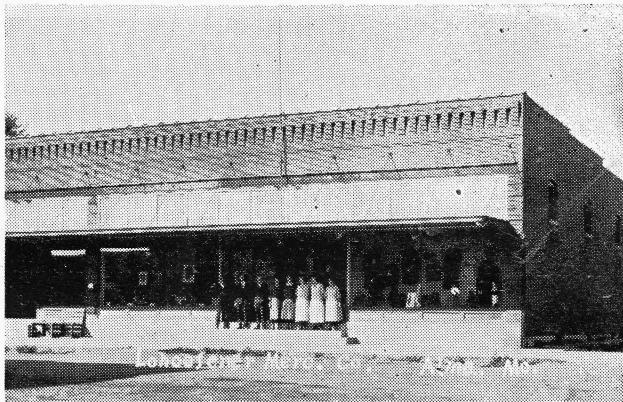
One account of 1883 reads as follows: "If any of the little girls want their dollies mended, call on our young doctor as he likes to accommodate the little ones." This young

doctor was J. W. Horner, who many now remember as the friend of children. He practiced medicine in Alma fifty-one years.

In 1894 Alma boasted of a bank, hotel, school, saloon, elevator, railroad, creamery, physician, restaurant, drug store, barber shop, butcher shop, livery stable, lumber yard, blacksmith shop, church, well driller, brick and tile factory, harness and saddle shop, newspaper, one hardware and furniture store, two hardware and implement stores, and two stock buyers. E. Kleeschulte was a contractor and builder, F. E. Morefield advertised his ability as a mason, J. E. Hill operated the saloon, M. W. Summers sold coal for seven cents per bushel, W. O. Kueck dealt in stock, grain and poultry, Lohoefer and Weisbrodt had general merchandise, L. Scholle was the butcher, G. Nieman had the brick and tile factory, L. E. Johnson was the tonsorial artist, and J. T. Goodwin advertised hardware, implements and lumber. Horner and Albin were proprietors of the drug store, and W. W. Corder offered first class accomodations at the City Hotel with a livery and transfer in connection.

The business directory of 1910 shows the Alma Bank, Alma Hardware and Implement Company, Horner and Kessler Drug Company, Lohoefer and Weisbrodt, General Merchandise, P. A. Furcht, Grocer, and Hartman Bros. Lumber Company. Theodore Buhlig had a meat market, H. H. Horstman and the Alma Grain Company took care of the grain. Lovercamp and Rolf bought livestock, F. A. Frerking had his harness store, J. G. Mueller and Jacob Kroencke were the blacksmiths, G. Nieman still made brick and tile, Leimbrock and Bokelman dealt in real estate and insurance, and J. G. Francis operated a livery stable. At that time there was a creamery, W. W. Corder was still proprietor of the hotel, and Charles Kurtz had charge of a restaurant. The physicians were Dr. J. W. Horner and Dr. J. G. W. Fischer.

F. W. Lohoefer began his mercantile business in Alma in 1883 with P. H. Koppenbrink as partner. They bought the business from C. Steffens. In 1888 Gerhard



LOHOEFENER MERCANTILE COMPANY
— OLDEST FIRM IN ALMA —

After 1920



Fehner bought Mr. Koppenbrink's interest in the partnership, but remained with the firm only a few years when he disposed of his interest to Charles Herring.¹⁸⁹⁰ About 1890-1900 John Weisbrodt of Mt. Olive, Illinois, took over Mr. Herring's equity in the company. By 1910 the firm's business had grown to such proportions that more floor space was needed. Consequently, the old frame building was displaced by a new brick structure, seventy-five by eighty feet, erected at an outlay of \$15,000. About this time Louis H. Roehrs joined the firm, and the style of Lohoefer-Weisbrodt-Roehrs remained until 1920, after which R. H. Lohoefer entered the firm and it assumed its present name. *Lohoefer-Raeber Co.*

The heritage of the drug store in Alma dates back to Dr. Field's pioneer store located where F. W. McClure now has his general merchandise business. In the course of time, the following changes of ownership took place: Dr. Field to Dr. Morgan, Dr. Morgan to Dr. J. W. Horner and Dan Jackson, to Horner and Albin, to Horner and Bremer, to J. E. Koppenbrink, to Horner and Kessler, to Horner and Fette, who sold the entire property to Dr. J. G. W. Fischer and George W. Kessler in 1912. The latter partners had already built the present home of the Alma Pharmacy to which part of the stock was removed. In 1922 G. W. Kessler sold his equity to the present owner, Dr. J. G. W. Fischer.

After the drug store was moved to its new location, P. A. Furcht established a grocery in the original drug store building. Some years later Furcht sold out to F. W. McClure, who now has his general merchandise store there.

The original lumber yard owned by John T. Goodwin was located where the stock pens are now. Mr. Goodwin later built where the present lumber yard is located. It has had the following owners: Hartman Bros., who built the present building, Hartman and Franke, Rogge and Hartman, Klaustermeyer and Kammeyer, and Klaustermeyer and Gerscheske, the present owners.

About 1882 George Flambers had a blacksmith shop on the corner which is now occupied by Walter Steffen's home.

Next to it was a wagon-maker's shop conducted by Emil Eichstadt. Later, Ella Albers, Anna Heins, and Bertha Saars had a milliner's shop in the Flambers building. For a while afterwards this building was used as a residence, then John Dierker had his implement shop there. A few years later it was occupied by Henry Schumacher, with his electrical supplies. Now, again, it is used as a residence.

In 1882 the Goodwin Livery Company was located where the Hanneman Barber Shop is now. Later Sam Hays bought the business; he was followed by Wall Corder, the next owner, and then it was transferred to Ed. Nolte, Charles Holsten, John Nowlin, and Adolph Mevius.

Gutlieb Nieman started a brick yard and tile factory in 1885. He had a flourishing business and employed eight men. This industry was discontinued about 1915. At present, Herman Liesemeyer has a blacksmith shop on this place which he built in 1929.

In 1883 John T. Goodwin had a general store on the corner now occupied by the Bremer Furniture Company. P. H. Koppenbrink owned it for a while. Later it was sold to the following owners: Deke and Henry Franke, to Oscar and Charles Kappelman, Kappelman Bros. then they took their stock of goods to Kansas and the building remained vacated for a time. Then Herman Bremer bought the building and replaced it in 1923 with the present structure. Mr. Bremer formerly had his stock of furniture in part of Lohoefer's store. The present proprietor of the furniture store to Alfred Bremer, son of the founder of the business.

The Alma Hardware and Implement Company was founded in 1887 by H. H. Horstman. Later William Klinkerman joined Horstman as a partner, but sold his interest to P. H. Koppenbrink in 1898. Mr. Horstman retired from business in 1906; Louis Fajen and E. H. Rolf bought his equity in the firm. Formerly these two had an implement store across the street. In 1908 Mr. Fajen sold his share to H. J. Dieckhoff. This partnership lasted until March, 1930, when Mr. Koppenbrink retired from business. Mr.

Dieckhoff then went into the implement business for himself and moved into his present building which was built in 1916. Gust G. Rist and Walter Rist took over the hardware business, staying in the old building. When it was torn down they moved into their present place.

After the old hardware building was torn down, a new service station was erected on the site. It was first leased to Otto and Elmer Fischer, who established the Skelly Service Station. For a short time Walter Dieckhoff operated the station. He was followed in November, 1934 by the present manager, J. E. Fette.

The building now occupied by the Alma Cash Store was built by Ernest Kleeschulte, who conducted a restaurant there for a number of years. He sold out to Charles Lovercamp, who in turn sold the business to Theodore Buhlig and George Lovercamp. Charles Kurtz was the next proprietor of the restaurant, then it was sold to Oscar Buhlig. He was followed by John H. and Martha McGuire. Since 1933 Terry McGuire has been the proprietor of the Alma Cash Store.

In 1886 John Buck had a restaurant where the Alma Bank is now located. He then transferred his business across the street to the place now occupied by F. A. Frerking's Harness Shop. After Mr. Buck died, Gerhard Fehner used the building as a residence. Years later William Fette operated a saloon there, and after a few years replaced it with a grocery and meat market. The building was then turned into a barber shop. Henry Kammeyer, Charles Dollarhide, and Sam Morgan were the barbers in the order named. Then Mrs. Ted Evert had a dress shop there called "The Vogue." In 1930 she changed to the restaurant business and named the place "Dew Drop Inn." F. A. Frerking became the next occupant with his harness shop.

Early in the eighties George Kurtz had a blacksmith shop located where Richard Buhlig now lives. Prior to 1895 John Heller had his shop in a building located near the present Dieckhoff Implement Store. Then John G.

Mueller bought the business from Heller, later building a shop in its present location. Mr. Mueller has now been in the blacksmith business in Alma for forty-one years. In 1920 Jacob Kroencke built his shop east of the implement store. Then Herman Stiegemeyer bought out the business and remained until 1934. The building is now vacant.

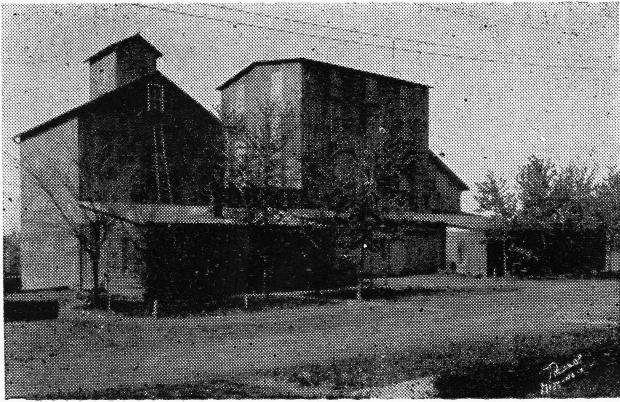
The building now occupied by the Sam B. Kaiser Garage was built by William Everett. After Mr. Everett died, Ed Fuchs bought the property. It was then sold to Ed. A. Wendt from whom Mr. Kaiser has it rented. Besides the garage, Humphrey Jennings has his gasoline station there; it is also the headquarters for the Kramer-Wendt Trucking Service.

About 1918 Ernest Brockman, Sr., constructed the building now occupied by the Henning Garage. He sold out to O. H. Henning and Walter Kalthoff, then later, Mr. Kalt-off sold his share to Mr. Henning.

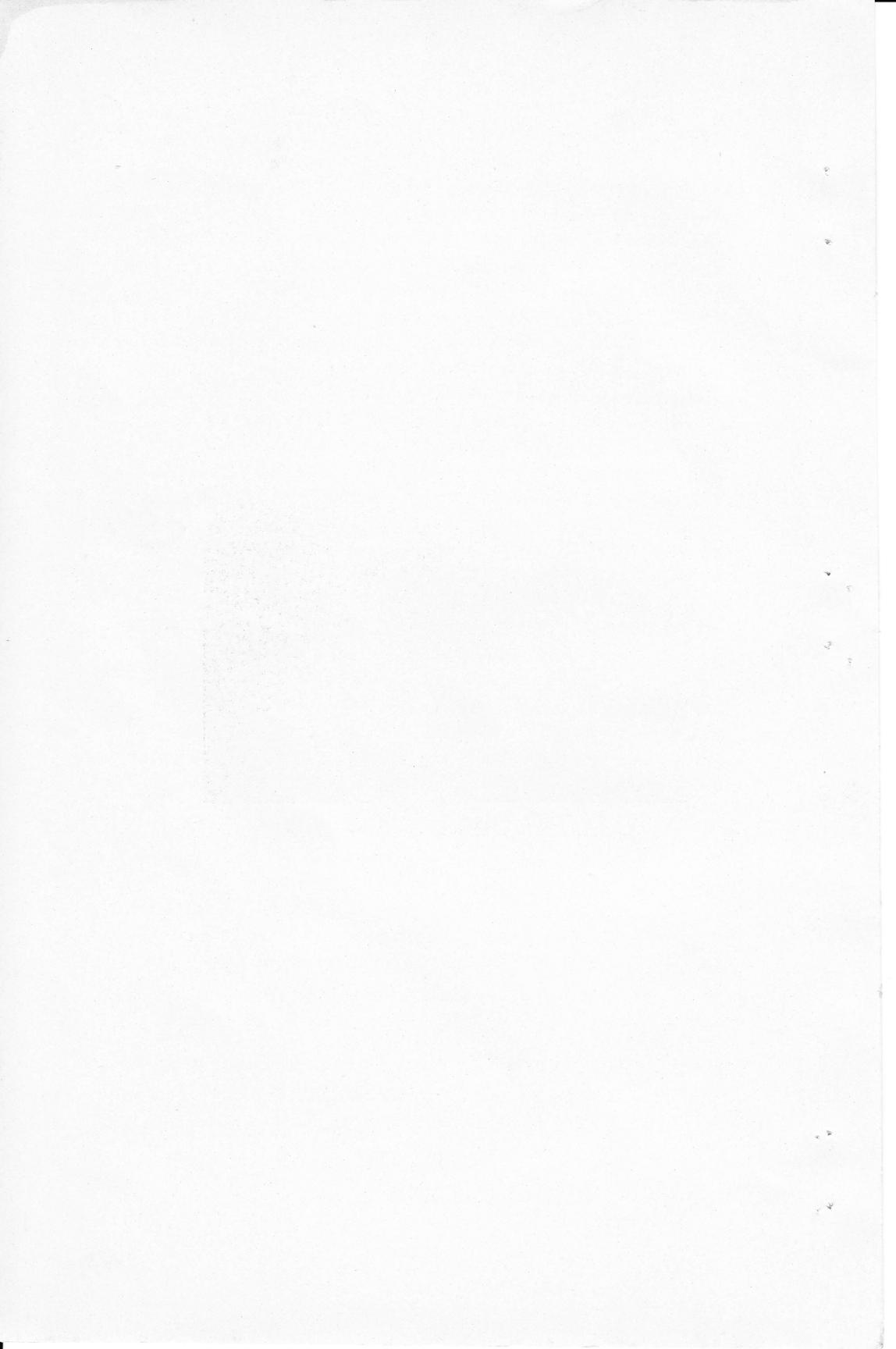
In 1913 Henry Horstman erected the building now occupied by the Alma Meat Market for a plumbing and tin shop. In 1919 he built the present shop to which he moved. Then ten years later, after his illness, he sold half of his interest in the business to Walter Schmidt.

After Mr. Horstman left his first building, Walter Kalthoff had a garage and repair shop there. For a while then it was used as a residence. Later, Henry Schumacher had an electrical repair shop there. Then he and Fritz Doenzelman conducted a meat market combined with a grocery. Finally, Doenzelman bought Schumacher's share, then in 1935 Ralph Henning purchased a half interest of the business.

In 1923 E. H. Rolf built where the Hanneman Barber Shop is now located. Charles Dollarhide barbered there for a while and in 1924 sold out to Ed. Hanneman. In the other part of the building H. A. Dankenbring had a poultry shop, starting in 1924. He sold out and was succeeded by the F. A. Frerking Harness Shop. In 1930 Otto and Ernest Brockman had their feed store located there. For a while this



ALMA FARMERS' ELEVATOR



part of the building remained vacant, then in 1936 Walter F. Steffens moved in with his pump shop.

The building now occupied by the Shell Service Station was formerly used as a warehouse for a saloon on its north side. In 1930 E. J. McGuire started the Shell Service Station. Two years later A. J. Brockhoff leased the business, and after a year or two it was transferred to the present manager, A. C. Dankenbring.

Across the street in what is now Ted's Barber Shop, Leonard Johnson began his tonsorial business in Alma. This was in the "gay nineties." He was followed by the following barbers: Kurrelmeyer, Guenther, Hunt, Sam Morgan, Alfred Buhlig, Sam Morgan, Ted Evert, and James A. G. Petering. In the building to the south, now used by the Alma Farmers' Produce Company, was the printing shop and home of Alma's only newspaper, the "Alma Courier." Apparently this was the outgrowth of the little hand-written paper edited by the school girls in 1883. The first issue of the "Alma Courier" appeared in March, 1894. It was published each Saturday and the subscription price was one dollar per year. The publishers were Goodwin and Marquis. The paper was discontinued in 1896.

Alma has two grain elevators; namely, the Bastian Elevator and the Farmers' Elevator. The former was built and operated by H. H. Horstman, and later was managed by Fred Kueck. W. D. Bastian now has charge of it. The Alma Farmers' Elevator Company, a cooperative concern, was organized in 1920 and incorporated for \$30,000. In 1925 it made extensive improvements costing about \$10,000. The Alma Farmers' Produce Company was a part of the corporation until 1936, when Richard Buhlig purchased this department. In 1935 the combined businesses had total sales amounting to approximately \$175,000. The present officers of the elevator company are E. J. Knipmeyer, president; S. W. Fletcher, vice-president; Sam Erdman, secretary; and Albert Kiehl, general manager.

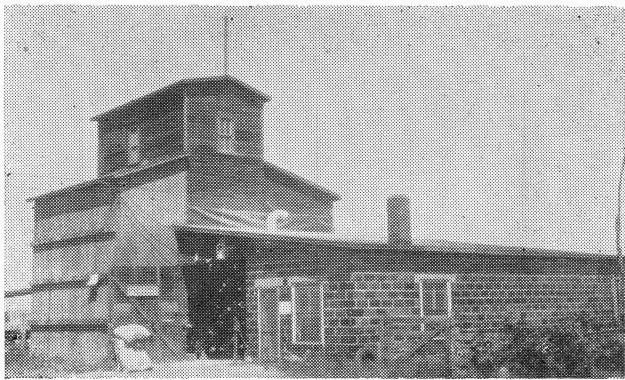
Early in 1934 Harry Miner began as manager of a bus-

iness known as the Neel Quality Egg Service. His station was located in the basement of the Bremer Furniture Store warehouse. He was succeeded the following year by Fred Hughes, who, after a few months, sold out to Richard Buhlig.

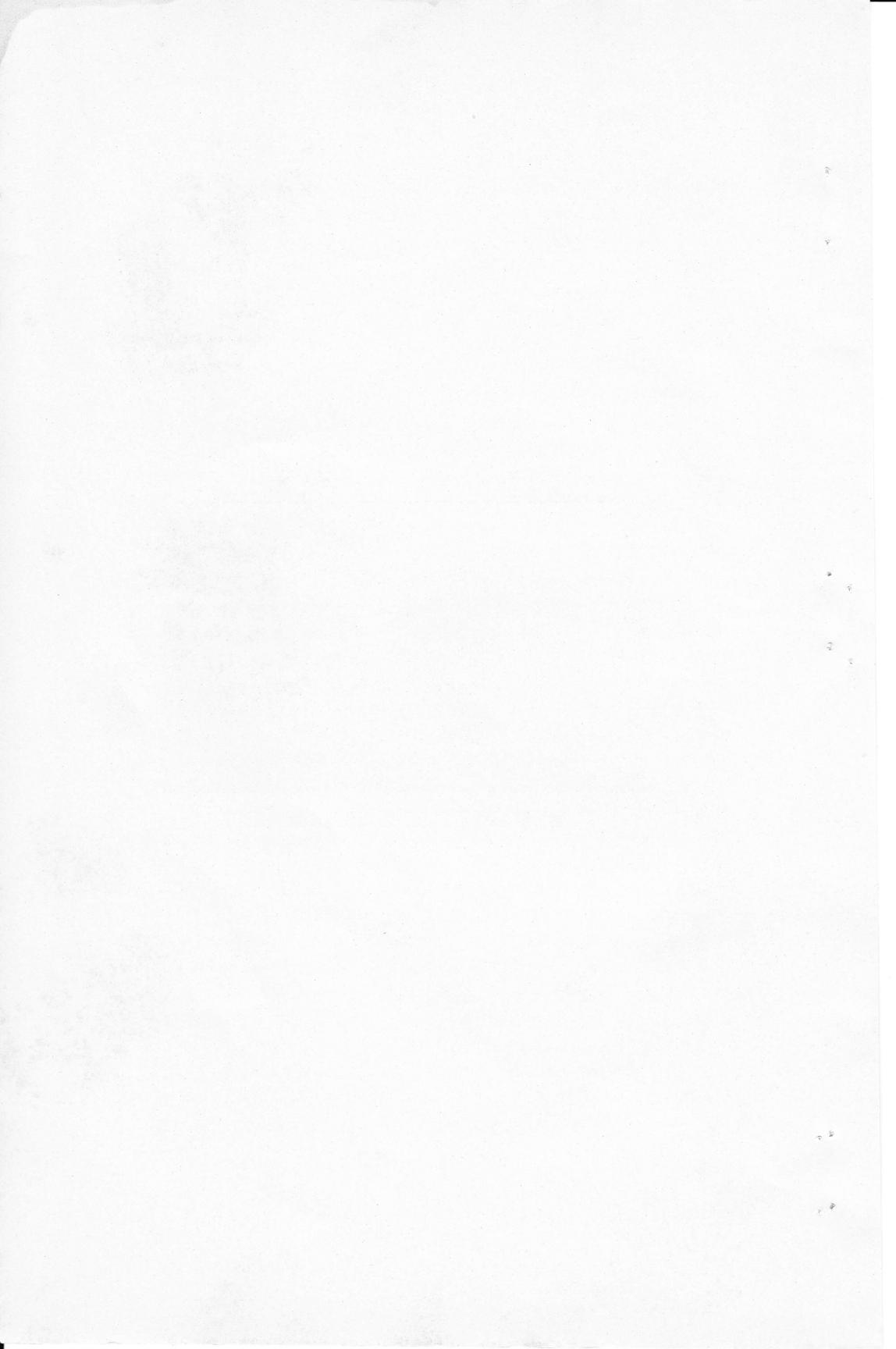
An interesting industry in the Alma locality and the largest of its kind in this part of the country was the Hillcrest Poultry Farm founded by Charles Brockhoff in 1913. This farm did an extensive business in the breeding of pure bred poultry and in the hatching of eggs, having at one time a hatchery of 7200-egg capacity. Mr. Brockhoff had the reputation of being the original breeder of Chinchilla and White New Zealand rabbits. After several years, Mr. Brockhoff decided to discontinue the business.

The Alma Bank was incorporated in 1884 with a capital of \$25,000. D. Y. Prigmore was the first president, and Robert C. Booton its first cashier. Other men on the directorate were A. P. Lewis, J. W. Lewis, H. H. Uphaus, J. A. Jackson, John T. Goodwin, G. A. Frerking, J. B. Warren, and H. Clay Corder. The original bank building, now the home of the Alma Telephone Company, was built of brick at a cost of \$2,000. It was twice burglarized, once on the night of December 30, 1896, when the vault doors were blown off by explosives and \$1,400 taken. The burglars were never captured. The present building was erected in 1917 and cost \$10,000, including fixtures. The officers of the bank are E. B. Becker, president; William Kellerman, vice-president; T. C. Marshall, cashier; Frank G. Becker, assistant cashier; and Alfred Franz, bookkeeper. Before the bank was built on its present location, there was an old building erected in 1895 which was owned by John Kirchner. His building was used as a rooming place. Later, Kirchner made it into a grocery and meat market. He sold out to Theodore Buhlig who operated it until his death.

The Alma Telephone Company was organized in June, 1904, reorganized in December, 1906, and incorporated in February, 1912. It began business with only a few lines



W. D. BASTIAN'S ELEVATOR



and telephones, but now has a total of 294 phones. Misses Velma Fischer and Edna Steffens are the present day-operators while L. T. Francis takes care of the night service. Henry Schumacher is repairman. The officers of the corporation are William Kellerman, president; Dr. J. G. W. Fischer, vice-president; and Alvin Zumbehl, secretary-treasurer.

The present Alma Creamery was built and incorporated in 1927, after there had been two previous failures in the creamery business in Alma. The investment in the new enterprise was \$14,000. The gross receipts of the business in 1935 were above \$87,000, or approximately a two per cent increase over the previous year's business. The creamery manufactured 333,488 pounds of prime butter in 1935. Present officers of the company are August Breder, president; E. W. Klaustermeyer, vice-president; R. H. Lohoefer, secretary; and Conrad Rynell, manager and treasurer.

One of the most recent enterprises for Alma has been the establishment of the Alma Canning Company. The business was incorporated in 1936 with an investment of \$5,000. The building was completed and ready for canning tomatoes when the season arrived. Officers of the cannery are Hugo Kleeschulte, president; William Kellerman, vice-president; and Alfred Bremer, secretary-treasurer. The manager of the new concern is Ed. Shannon.

The people of Alma community have always been proud of the splendid services of their doctors. Dr. J. W. Horner, successor of Dr. J. T. Morgan, practiced in the community over fifty-one years prior to his death in 1934. Dr. J. G. W. Fischer came to Alma in May, 1898, and continues active in his profession and as proprietor of the Alma Pharmacy. Dr. H. V. Melin, dentist, has built an extensive practice since he came to Alma in 1915. In 1935 he added a very practical service for his clients by installing an X-ray in his office. Dr. Melin was elected head of the county association of dentists in 1936. For a few months in 1934 Dr. Theile, veterinarian, had his office in Alma. He later entered the

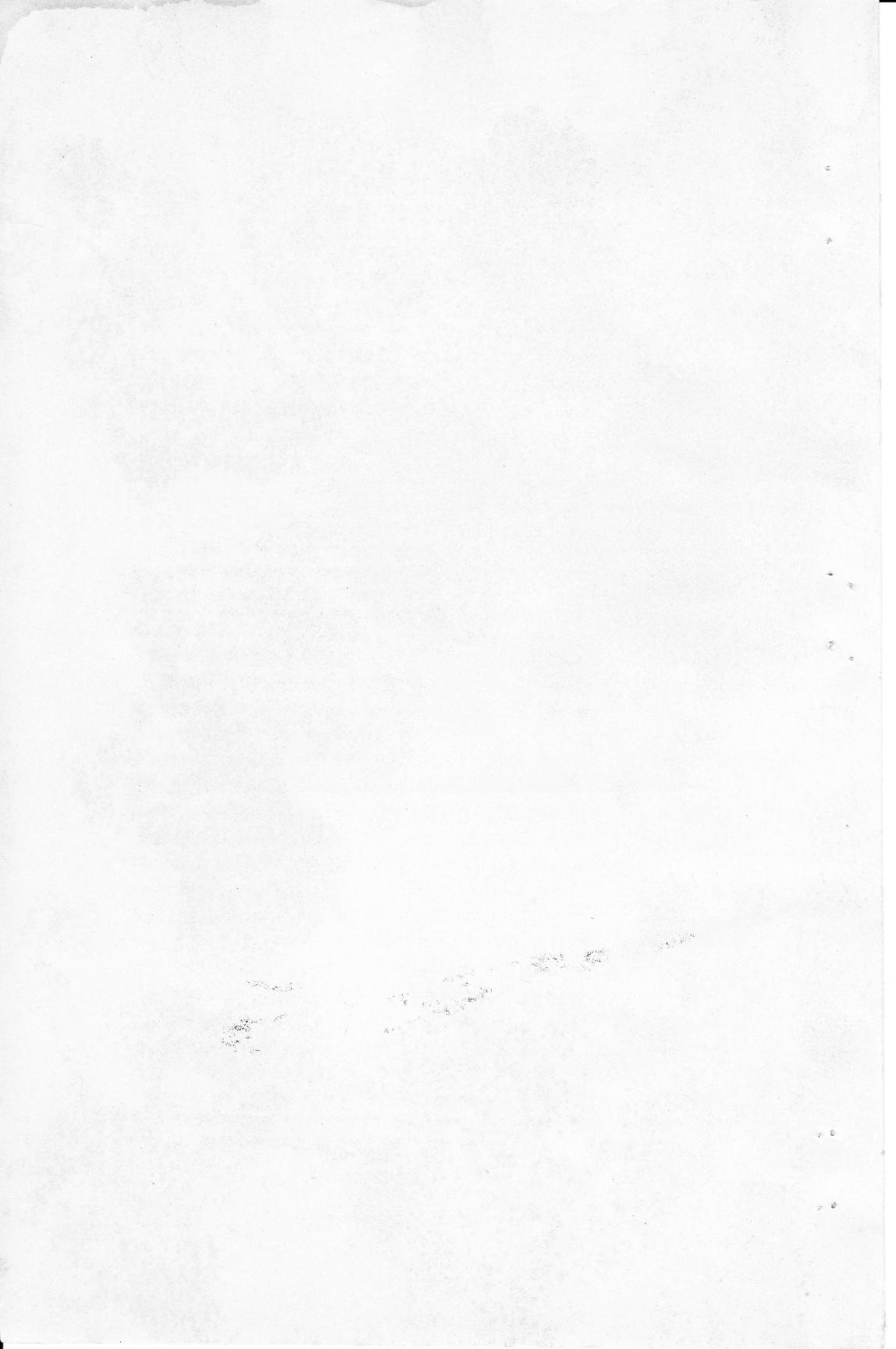
government service.

It may not be generally known that Alma is the home of an insurance company, the Lutheran Benevolent Company. It was organized on January 15, 1926, for the mutual benefit and protection of its members against loss by fire, lightning, hail, or tornado. The business of the company has increased rapidly during recent years. At present it has over \$7,000,000 of business in force. Ed. A. Wendt is secretary of the company.

Brief mention should also be given to the skilled trades. At present George Schroeder is a contractor and builder; Walter Dieckhoff is a radiotrician; L. T. Francis, interior decorator and painter; Ernest Franke and Henry Priess, painters and carpenters; Ed. J. Rogge, F. Kammeyer, and E. H. Gerschefske, carpenters.



ALMA CREAMERY



CHAPTER VIII

Civic Organizations

Unfortunately, the minutes and records of the Alma civic organizations of the past have seldom been preserved. About 1930 the Alma Community Club was organized with a membership from among the citizens of Alma and the farmers of the community. This club sponsored a picnic and a few other activities during its two or three years of existence.

Then on February 4, 1935, a number of business and professional men of Alma met at the city hall for the purpose of organizing a club which would sponsor such civic projects and social activities that would be beneficial to Alma and the community. Terry McGuire acted as temporary chairman of the group and James A. G. Petering as temporary secretary. Fifty-nine male citizens became members of the club that evening. The organization was named the Alma Civic Club. Officers elected for the first year were J. E. Fette, president; H. A. Dankenbring, first vice-president; Dr. H. V. Melin, second vice-president; James A. G. Petering, secretary; and Ed. A. Wendt, treasurer.

The first annual meeting of the club was held in the Alma High School auditorium January 14, 1936. A social meeting and luncheon was the first event of the evening, after which a business meeting was held. Officers elected for 1936 were S. B. Francis, president; H. A. Dankenbring, first vice-president; Dr. H. V. Melin, second vice-president; James A. G. Petering, secretary; and Ed. A. Wendt, treasurer.

On January 21, 1936, a resolution was passed and unanimously supported by all members to have the club sponsor and encourage a new canning project for Alma. With continuous effort this new enterprise was brought about in the form of the Alma Canning Company, incorporated only a few weeks later. Many members of the club feel that this has been one of the major accomplishments of the organization. At present, the club is making plans for another Alma

fall festival.

The first Alma brass band was organized about 1895 when Professor A. Eichmann and a score of interested musicians decided that their musical talent need not lie dormant any longer. There were only eighteen members who played regularly in this band, however, there were several others who played intermittently with the group. Professor Eichmann was chosen leader of the band, Henry Franke was named president, and William Deke, secretary. The names of regular members and the instruments they played are as follows:

C. Topel	Tuba	Henry Franke	Clarinet
Henry Wagner	Tenor	Henry Stegeman	Clarinet
Fred Stegeman	Tenor	William Deke	Clarinet
Herman Peters	Tenor	John G. Mueller	Clarinet
Herman Lange	Snare Drum	Henry Horstman	Clarinet
Charles Horstman	Alto	G. Wagner	E. Clarinet
William Rolf	Bass Drum	William Wagner	Cornet
Charles Niemeyer	Bass Drum	Otto Horstman	Baritone
		Gust Peters	Baritone

This band attained considerable notoriety and distinction in 1896, when, during the famous Bryan-McKinley campaign that year, it competed with thirty-two bands in a political rally held at Sedalia and won second prize. The "boys" really "strutted their stuff" that day, and no wonder—they were wearing their new suits for the first time. This group of talented musicians was very much in demand during those "good old days," and it soon became a self-supporting organization.

At the turn of the century this band began to decline in the number of members. By 1916 it had decreased to such a degree that more new members were needed to sustain it. With a little encouragement from the industrious Professor Eichmann and others, the band reorganized and began to practice and play regularly again. Those in the band that year were:

Henry Dankenbring	Tuba	E. H. Rolf	Cornet
O. H. Rolf	Snare Drum	Alvin Tieman	Cornet
William Rolf	Trombone	Louis Tieman	Cornet

Henry Rolf	Trombone	Arthur Fuchs	Cornet
John G. Mueller	Bass Drum	Fred Wagner	Cornet
Charles Horstman	Alto	H. J. Dieckhoff	Alto
R. H. Lohoefer	Clarinet	O. E. Horstman	Baritone
George Hill	Alto	William Groves	Clarinet

This band did not succeed as well as the first one as it did not have time to develop its musical talent. When the United States entered the World War in 1917, several members were taken to the battlefield, so the remaining group discontinued their interest in the band.

Not until the fall of 1935 did Alma have another band. A group of interested musicians met and organized by selecting Walter Beyerlein as leader, Walter Steffens, president, and R. H. Lohoefer, secretary-treasurer. This group shows much enthusiasm and promise for a good band in Alma for years to come, due largely to the number of young members and the persistent efforts of its able leader. It has made a surprising development in membership as well as the quality of music produced. Following is the membership of the present Alma band:

Edwin Steffens	Trumpet	Ernest Brockman	Alto
Walter Rolf	Trumpet	Warner Schumacher	Alto
Alvin Tieman	Trumpet	Leonard Rolf	Alto
Walter Steffens	Trumpet	Henry Schumacher	Trumpet
Wilfred Karsten	Clarinet	Bobbie Becker	Trumpet
R. H. Lohoefer	Clarinet	Elmer Schuette	Saxaphone
Herman Kramer	Baritone	Arthur Fuchs	Baritone
Herbert McGuire	Saxophone	Lyman Francis	Clarinet
Lawrence Krueger	Saxophone	Alfred Franz	Trombone
Henry Dankenbring	Bass Drum	Henry Bargfrede	Trombone
Frances Lee McClure	Snare Drum	Walter Schmidt	Trombone
Henry Rolf	Bass Drum	Fred Henderson	Trombone
William Rolf	Snare Drum		

CHAPTER IX

Recreation and Entertainment

One of the oldest sports in Alma is baseball. Years before the present home of Sam B. Kaiser was built the baseball diamond was located there. Then the diamonds were changed to the south part of town. Fifty years ago James Jackson, Jr., was a member of the Alma baseball club. At that time the team was also composed of a few players from Blackburn. An account from the "Alma Courier" relates that a game of baseball was played August 7, 1894 between the B. Q. S. C. (Quick-Steps) and the Dover club; the former team won the game by a score of 31-15. Later players on the Alma team were Hugo Kleeschulte and J. Y. "Young" Jackson. The latter's son, J. Y., Jr., is a player on the present Alma team; this makes three generations of baseball players from the same family playing on the various Alma teams.

In recent years Alma baseball teams have played both independent and league-organized schedules. They have always won a good share of the games played. Alma has reason to be proud of its baseball products; it has produced two outstanding big-league pitchers, Oscar E. "Bosco" Horstman and Louis "Lou" Fette. By 1915 the former athlete had worked his way into a western coast league and later, into the American Association. Before the World War in 1917 "Bosco" made the National League, pitching for the St. Louis Cardinals. One year he was among the leading pitchers in the National League. Then came the war and he enlisted in the army. After the war he returned to the Cardinals, and in a few weeks was one of several players injured in an automobile wreck. "Bosco" never recovered his former pitching ability as a result of the injury sustained in this wreck.

Soon after "Lou" Fette graduated from high school in 1926 one would often see Horstman, former Cardinal star, teaching him in the alleys and side streets of Alma the fundamentals of pitching. That summer and the next "Lou"

put these instructions into practice by pitching for some strong independent teams. For a while he pitched for Brookfield in the old Illmo League. Then in 1927 he became a student at Missouri Valley college at Marshall, Missouri, where he became a star athlete. Soon his talent was recognized and he was signed by the management of the Kansas City Blues in the American Association. He was farmed out to the Pueblo, Colorado club for a brief period, after which he was recalled to the Blues. Fette was a successful pitcher for Kansas City and his prospect for advancement came when St. Paul secured him in 1934. In 1936 he became the leading pitcher in his league, and was also one of the leading batters. On July 6 of that year he was traded to the Boston Bees of the National League.

After the players on the Alma High School basketball teams graduated there were several good town basketball teams. The original name of the teams was Alma Gorillas, but this was changed in 1934 to Alma Merchants. Then in 1935 the name was again changed to Alma Green Waves, chiefly because of the color of the suits which were purchased by the merchants and boosters of the team. That year the team was a member of the Heart of America conference, winning the championship cup. Members of the team were "Lou" Fette, Walter "Sonny" Rist, Phillip Goodwin, Herman "Brownie" Rolf, Hosea Kappelman, and Garland T. Scott. A second Alma boys' town team was organized that year, calling themselves the Alma Green Ripples. One of the best girls' town teams was organized that year; the members were Ruby Evert, Erna Franz, Lydia Fuchs, Renata Rolf, Clara Newland, Vera Karsten, Marie Klaustermeyer, and Irene Fette.

Croquet has long been a popular game in Alma. The elderly men play on a court south of the Alma Pharmacy, while a court on which the younger men play is located east of the depot. A place near by is also prepared for pitching horseshoes.

For the past few years playground baseball has been

played by several of the men and boys. Teams have been organized at various times and games with teams from other towns have been played. A few of the young people also play tennis. A favorite winter pastime in Alma is pinochle.

Most women in Alma have affiliated with one or another of the various ladies' aids. In these organizations quilting has become a recreation as well as an industry. About 1925 the Alma Friendly Neighbors' club was organized. The women in this group usually have recreational as well as educational programs. One of the annual projects of this organization is to organize and sponsor a junior 4-H club among the girls of the community.

The Alma Lutheran Men's Association was organized March 17, 1931. The purpose of this organization has been to foster Christian fellowship and sociability and afford education and entertainment. At present this association has seventy-three members, many of whom are punctual at the semi-monthly meetings. The most popular entertainment of this organization has been the playing of dart baseball.

Alma has always had its share of picnics and festivals, and other days of celebration and entertainment. About 1902 a festival was held known as "Soup Day," so-called because vegetable soup was served to all who were present. Later Binder Days were celebrated prior to the wheat harvest. Binders were displayed and paraded on the street and a festive time was had by all. Picnics, family reunions and Fourth of July celebrations were other events for which to look forward.

One of the outstanding celebration events that occurred in Alma was the Golden Jubilee of October 10-11, 1930, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the city. On the afternoon of the first day a grand parade, headed by the Concordia band, took place. The school children and citizens portrayed the progress and development of the city and community with the use of floats and decorations. A series of vehicles in the parade, beginning with a covered

wagon drawn by a cow and a mule and ending with the newest automobile in town, and a miniature airplane representing the "Spirit of Alma" depicted the progress in transportation.

Features of the program included talks by H. A. Dankenbring, mayor of the city, and Dr. J. W. Horner, F. W. Lohoefer, P. H. Koppenbrink, Henry Stegemiller, Louis Meyerholz, Mrs. Catherine Horstman, Mrs. Anna Nordsieck, and Mrs. Anna Kurtz. There were also many amusing contests during both afternoons besides the various concessions. It is said that the crowds attending this jubilee were the largest to ever appear in Alma.

The first annual Alma Fall Festival, sponsored by the Alma Civic Club, was held September 20-21, 1935. Two bands participated in the programs, in which also were four parades. Exhibits of farm products, flowers, household arts, and antiques made up one of the most elaborate displays the community has ever shown. The streets were crowded with concessions, rides, and stands of various kinds. Success in the first festival enterprise has made members of the club feel that it will become a permanent event.

CHAPTER X

The People

Alma boasted a population of more than two hundred people a decade after the village was incorporated. The census of 1900 revealed 248 inhabitants, while the one in 1910 showed 319. By 1920 the population had increased to 369, and in 1930 to 372. The present number of inhabitants exceeds the later figure and is probably near the four hundred mark.

A majority of the first settlers who came to the Alma region were originally from Virginia and Kentucky. They came by way of Waverly, the settlements being gradually extended southward years before the Civil War. Several descendants from these settlers still have their homes in Alma and vicinity. The first Germans who ventured into the wilds of Lafayette County came about 1840. Some of the familiar names in the eastern part of the county ten years later were Dierking, Frerking, Stuenkel, Franke, Meyer, Schmidt, Brockman, Walkenhorst, and Thieman. A thriving German settlement was located south of Davis Creek long before the town was founded. Apparently the Germans generally came to the Alma vicinity from the mother settlement at Concordia. Years ago several colored families lived in the Pleasant Grove neighborhood south of Alma; only three or four of these families have lived in Alma in recent years.

After the Civil War the advantages offered by the fertility of eastern Lafayette County soil and the prosperity of the inhabitants became known in the counties in the eastern part of the state where older German settlements existed. Beginning in the eighties, many farmers from this region especially from Warren, St. Charles, and Gasconade counties came in great numbers. There were also some settlers who came to Alma direct from Germany during the last two decades of the century. The major portion of Germans came from Hanover, Westphalia and Lippe-Detmold, or are descendants of immigrants from these sections of

Germany.

The German farmer was a very potent factor in the development of the Alma community. His love for the soil made him an industrious, never-relaxing tiller. His pains-taking endurance and his thorough methods of farming increased the productiveness of the land, and thereby its value. The Germans have always been a peace-loving people, and their social gatherings were well attended for a source of wholesome and refreshing amusement. They are a law-abiding people, and the criminal annals of the courts count but few German names on their pages. They have been patriotic people who, although upholding the traditions, the customs, and the language of their forefathers, are excellent citizens of whom Alma has been proud.

The political history of the Alma community shows that the majority political party of the precinct has changed. In the early days most of the voters were affiliated with the Democratic Party. The Alma Courier of 1894-1895 was a very strong supporter of the principles of that party. After the German immigration in the eighties and nineties, there were many more Republican voters than Democratic despite the fact that several of the older German families remained true to the Democratic faith. Results of general elections of recent years usually show three Republican votes to every Democratic one.

William Young's History of Lafayette County, Missouri, is the only source which gives an account of a fraternal organization in Alma. It mentions that by 1910 the lodges had narrowed down to the fraternity of Woodmen of America and a branch of the Mechanics and Laborers' Aid Society. For two or three years the Modern Woodmen had a camp here. No lodge is located in Alma today.

During the old saloon days prior to the World War, Alma had the reputation of being one of the "wettest" towns in the state. Indeed, it was given the name "Oasis of Western Missouri." As early as 1883 the need for a calaboose in which to place the drunken men was recognized.

An account written by a citizen of Alma June 29 of that year reads: "We are glad to hear that the gentlemen of Alma are talking of building a calaboose. We also hope that they will not only talk about it, but will build it.. It will be a great benefit for the town and will learn men when they are drunk that they will have to behave themselves or go to the calaboose, and we do not think they will get it before they need it. If there had been one here Saturday it would not have taken long to have filled it with drunken men."

Later, when Alma was one of the few "wet spots" remaining, the men coming to town by train would jump off the cars before they came to a stop and dash for the saloons to quench their thirst. It is said that some of the boys would have fun with the drunken visitors by tripping them with a rope as they came down the steps from the saloon. Some of the drunken men were known to have climbed to the top of the saloons where they delivered speeches. One man under the influence of liquor made a serious attempt to ride his horse into a saloon, while another is said to have bit off the head of a mouse for a reward of five dollars.

During this time it was necessary for Alma to have peace officers and a jail. When the intoxicated men became noisy and disturbed the peace, they were immediately placed behind the bars. The fine was usually five dollars and costs, which amounted to a total of seven or eight dollars. The fines and costs for one particular year amounted to more than \$350.

In contrast to the conditions of pre-prohibition days, Alma became one of the most sober and peaceful towns in the state after the war. Drunkenness or disturbances of any kind are rarely committed today. The tranquility of the city is an index of the law-abiding character of the people. Its citizens love their homes and are loyal to the institutions of the city and community. Most certainly the people of Alma are peace-loving, thrifty, and progressive; all of which are the qualities desired in a community where one wishes to live and make a living.

In conclusion, we shall go from the records of the past to the thoughts of the future as expressed in an essay written by a pupil of the little frame school at Alma in 1883:

ONWARD

Onward is the language of creation. The stars whisper it in their courses; the seasons breathe it as they succeed each other; the night wind whistles it; the water of the deep roars it; the mountains lift up their heads and tell it to the clouds; and Time, the hoary-headed potentate proclaims it with an iron tongue. From clime to clime, from ocean to ocean, from century to century, and from planet to planet, all is onward. From the smallest rivulet to the unfathomable sea, everything is onward. Cities hear its voice, and rise up in magnificence; nations hear it and sink into the dusk; monarchs learn it and tremble on their thrones; continents feel it, and are convulsed as with an earthquake. Men, customs, fashions, tastes, opinions, and prejudices, are all onward. States, counties, towns, districts, cities, and villages are all onward. That word never ceases to influence the destinies of men. Science cannot arrest it, nor philosophy divert from its purpose. It flows with the very blood in our veins, and every second chronicles its progress. From one stage of civilization to another; from one towering landmark to another, we still move upward and onward. Thus did our forefathers escape the barbarisms of past ages; thus do we conquer the errors of our time, and draw nearer to the Invisible. So must we move onward with our armors bright, our weapons keen, and our hearts strong.



